



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
CALIENTE RESOURCE AREA • LAS VEGAS DISTRICT

NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE
REGION III OFFICE



CONDOR CANYON



HABITAT MANAGEMENT PLAN

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N5-WHA-T27

PREPARED BY:
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WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BIOLOGIST
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1989

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
CALIENTE RESOURCE AREA
LAS VEGAS DISTRICT

Abstract

The Condor Canyon Habitat Management Plan (HMP) is designed to maintain or improve habitat conditions for the threatened Big Spring Spinedace, Lepidomeda mollispinis pratensis. The critical habitat of the spinedace partially borders two Wildlife Habitat Areas (WHA): N5-WHA-T36 and N5-WHA-T37. All of the critical habitat lies within the Las Vegas District, Caliente Resource Area, although the N5 allotment is presently administered out of the Ely District, Schell Resource Area. It has been agreed upon by the Caliente and Schell Resource Area personnel that Caliente would acquire full administration of the allotment by FY 90. This plan includes objectives designed to enhance quality and quantity of the habitat elements food, water, cover, and space for this Federally listed species.

A SIKES ACT COOPERATIVE FEDERAL - STATE
MANAGEMENT PLAN

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

CHECKLIST FOR PREPARATION AND REVIEW
OF HABITAT MANAGEMENT PLANS

State	Nevada
District	Las Vegas
Resource Area	Caliente
HMP Name and Number	Condor Canyon N5-WHA-T27
HMP Prepared by	Edward Guerrero

REVIEW CHECKLIST	SURNAME	DATE
1. Master Memorandum of Understanding, Sikes Act Agreement and/or Supplemental with State Agency.		
2. Preliminary meeting(s) with State Agency (or other appropriate cooperators) to jointly discuss HMP objectives.	Guerrero	10-88
3. Endangered Species Act Compliance completed by	E. Guerrero	3-15-90
4. Review by District/Resource Area Specialists		
Range Stager	Stager	2/90
Wild Horse and Burro Stager	Stager	2/90
Hydrologist Siebert	Siebert	1-27-90
Forestry		
Fisheries/Botanist/Wildlife Biologist SLONE	SLONE	Jan. 28, 1990
Lands Mims		
Minerals Chatterton	Chatterton	1-30-90
Recreation Taylor	Taylor	2-8-90
Wilderness/ACEC Taylor	Taylor	2-8-90
Cultural Rolt	S. ROLT	1-28-90
Visual Taylor	Taylor	2-8-90
Environmental Coordinator (reviews EAs)		
Support (Chief of Operations/Fire Management)		
Others		
5. Reviewed by Area Manager	C. J. Tucker	3-19-90
6. Reviewed by Chief of Resource Management		
7. Draft HMP and EA reviewed by State Agency authorized officer (or other cooperators).	Guerrero	4/5/90
8. Final review (if appropriate) by State Director		
Reviewed and approved by District Manager	Ben Gallina	4/18/90
9. Approved by State Agency authorized officer	Guerrero	
Remarks		

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	3	Land Status/Sheep Trial
	4	Minerals Claims/Oil and Gas Leases
	5	BLM Manual 6671 Stream Survey Sites/Critical Habitat
	6	Water Quality Sampling Sites
	7	Location Map
Appendix	#1	Vegetation Species List
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	3	Implementation/Cost Schedule
	4	BLM/USFWS Telephone confirmation
	5	Union Pacific Railroad ROW letter
	6	USFWS/BLM letter
	7	Section 7 Consultation

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Justification

The Big Spring Spinedace was listed as threatened with critical habitat by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) on April 29, 1985. The final rule for this determination was published in the Federal Register on March 28, 1985 (50 FR 12298). The Federal Register included potential threats from habitat degradation due to livestock grazing and possible species elimination due to severe floods.

The subspecies is also listed by the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners as protected (NRS 503.065). This member of the minnow family (Cyprinidae) is endemic to the Meadow Valley Wash drainage, Lincoln County, Nevada. The USFWS has drafted the Big Spring Spinedace Recovery Plan, 1987. This document remains to be finalized. This document also identified past causes for the decline of the subspecies:

Habitat alteration, competition for habitat elements, and predation, from introduced species.

The above two documents did not make reference to potential impacts from recreationists. In 1984 the railroad tracks which ran parallel to the creek were removed. This allowed vehicle travel throughout the canyon which previously had been all but impossible.

It is understood that this HMP is being written with little knowledge on the life requirements for this isolated member of the minnow family (Cyprinidae). Past literature on the Big Spring Spinedace refers mostly to taxonomic description of the fish, place of occurrence and description of habitat. This document will attempt to draw certain conclusions from recent studies to incorporate objectives to maintain or improve the habitat and will also identify future actions and studies necessary to comprehend the needs of this species. It is also understood that the objectives and actions which will be identified at this time may require change as additional knowledge is gained.

The implementation of this HMP will serve to assure the recovery and continued existence of the Big Spring Spinedace and the values related to all living organisms. The continued existence of this species will preserve the niche that it maintains in the ecosystem and perpetuate the ecological balance in that same ecosystem.