

30 July 2008

Mr. Steven L. Spangle
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, AZ 85021-4951

RE: Initiation of Status Review for the Bald Eagle in the Sonoran Desert Region of
Central Arizona and Northwestern Mexico.

Dear Mr. Spangle:

I am writing in support of a letter submitted by Mr. Richard L. Glinski on 7 July 2008 addressing the significance of the Sonoran Desert Bald Eagle population. The letter was sent directly to Public Comments and Processing (FWS-R2-ES-2008-0059) at U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Arlington, VA.

I have known Mr. Glinski for nearly 40 years, he was a student of mine at the University of Arizona in 1971-72, and I currently sit on the City of Tucson's Habitat Conservation Plan Technical Advisory Committee with him. Mr. Glinski is a dedicated, passionate, and untiring student and defender of raptorial birds throughout the southwester United States. He was the representative of the Southwestern recovery team at joint meetings of the Bald Eagle recovery team, and I fully support the letter he submitted on 7 July.

Mr. Glinski's grasp of the situation with southwestern U.S. and northern Mexico Bald Eagle populations is dead on the mark, not just comprehending the biology of the situation, but clearly understanding the ecological history and impending threat, which, in my opinion, is probably greater today than it was back in the days of Orme Dam and the Central Arizona Project.

Of all the comments you have received on the 12-month status review of the Bald Eagle in Arizona, I believe Mr. Glinski's are likely to be the most cogent and deserving of very intense consideration by the Service. Mr. Glinski has asked me to provide additional comments, but I believe he has covered the issue and I cannot add to his very clear commentary.

Thank you,



E. Linwood Smith, PhD
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