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United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Nevada Fish and Wildlife Office

4701 North Torrey Pines Drive

Las Vegas, Nevada 89130

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CENTRAL OFFICE

February 29, 2008

File No. 84320-2008-FA-0100

Mr. Rich Harvey, Resource Program Manager
Nevada Division of Forestry
2525 South Carson Street
Carson City, Nevada 89701

Dear Mr. Harvey:

Subject: Proposed Changes to Regulations Pertaining to Las Vegas Buckwheat (*Eriogonum corymbosum* var. *nilesii*) under Chapter 572 of the Nevada Administrative Code

We are writing to express our support of the proposed change to Chapter 572 of the Nevada Administrative Code pertaining to the addition of the Las Vegas buckwheat to the State of Nevada Critically Endangered Species List, pursuant to Nevada Revised Statutes 527.260-300.

On December 6, 2007 (Federal Register Vol. 72, Number 232), the Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) completed a Candidate Notice of Review (CNOR) for the Las Vegas buckwheat and added it to our list of species that are Candidates for Listing as Endangered or Threatened. The CNOR summarizes the status of the Las Vegas buckwheat, the threats we evaluated, and the listing priority number assigned. The Service believes identifying candidate species can assist environmental planning efforts by providing advance notice of potential listings, allowing landowners and resource managers to alleviate threats and thereby possibly remove the need to list species as endangered or threatened. Even if we subsequently list a candidate species, the early notice provided could result in more options for species management and recovery by prompting candidate conservation measures to alleviate threats to the species.

To assist in your determination to add the Las Vegas buckwheat to the Nevada Critically Endangered Species List, we have enclosed our species assessment and listing priority assignment form for the Las Vegas buckwheat. If you have any questions regarding our assessment, please contact Amy LaVoie or Fred Edwards in the Nevada Fish and Wildlife Office in Las Vegas at (702) 515-5230.

Sincerely,


For Robert D. Williams
Field Supervisor

Enclosure

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