



Brian Sandoval  
Governor

STATE OF NEVADA  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

1263 S. Stewart Street  
Carson City, Nevada 89712

Susan Martinovich, P.E.  
Director

June 8, 2011

Intent-to-Study  
Southern Nevada HCP and EA Project  
Nye, Lincoln, and Clark County, NV

To Whom It May Concern,

The Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT) is preparing a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) and a permit application package for incidental take of the desert tortoise (*Gopherus agassizii*), Southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonas talii extimus*), and yellow billed cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus*) from activities associated with State-funded highway maintenance and construction in existing NDOT rights-of-way (ROW). This Proposed Action is located along state roads in Southern Nevada (Clark and portions of Lincoln and Nye Counties). The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) will be preparing an environmental assessment (EA) to evaluate the impacts of the Proposed Action relating to the issuance of an Endangered Species Act Section 10 Permit to NDOT for the incidental take. The EA will include measures necessary to avoid, minimize, and mitigate impacts to these species to the maximum extent practicable.

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, USFWS is preparing this plan in cooperation with NDOT. This letter is to inform you of the current plan and anticipated studies and to solicit your comments concerning the plan. Areas of potential impact could include, but are not limited to, the following:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. Biological Resources                  | 5. Native American Religious and Cultural Resources |
| 2. Air Quality                           | 6. Floodplains                                      |
| 3. Transportation/Traffic                | 7. Water Resources and Water Quality                |
| 4. Land Use Authorizations<br>and Access | 8. Wetlands/Riparian Zones                          |

Public Information Meetings will be held at a later date (Summer 2012) to receive comments and suggestions from interested individuals, groups, and agencies regarding the HCP, EA, and permit application. You will be notified of the meetings at that time.

Comments, questions, specific issues, or relevant information regarding the proposed project may be addressed to Steve M. Cooke, P.E., Chief Environmental Services Division, Nevada Department of Transportation, 1263 S. Stewart Street, Carson City, Nevada, 89712, phone (775) 888-7013. Comments, questions, specific issues, or relevant information may also be emailed to [info@dot.state.nv.us](mailto:info@dot.state.nv.us); please reference the project title in the subject line. We would appreciate receiving any response you may have by **Friday, July 8, 2011**. If no response is received, the Department will assume you foresee no potential impacts in your particular area of responsibility or interest at this time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Steve M. Cooke".

Steve M. Cooke, P.E., Chief  
Environmental Services Division