

7 Tam 7BL 4/21/92 REC'D 12/17/92
57 files

NA in
NRB, b
entered as
present in park
Historical
for different
species
7/14/00

N1621 (SWR-RNR)

DEC 14 1992

Memorandum

To: Field Supervisor, Ecological Services, U. S. Fish and
Wildlife Service, Corpus Christi, Texas

From: Regional Director, Southwest Region

Subject: Request for threatened and endangered species
information about Palo Alto Battlefield National
Historic Site

The National Park Service is currently developing a General Management Plan (GMP) for Palo Alto Battlefield National Historic Site in Cameron County, Texas. The planning team includes staff from the park, our Denver Service Center, and the Southwest Regional Office. As part of the GMP process, we want to ensure that threatened and endangered (T&E) species considerations are fully addressed by our planning team.

Consequently, even though a Section 7 consultation was performed last summer, we are asking if you would provide us with updated information on the area. We are interested in obtaining a list of all species in the park which are Federally listed as threatened or endangered, candidate species, any other special status species that might occur, and critical habitat (if any). If no change has occurred in the area's T&E or candidate species since last summer, a simple "no change" will handle this part of our request. Enclosed for your reference is a copy of the park's projected boundaries. (Land acquisition has not yet begun.) Also enclosed is our T&E species list for the park, based on our current understanding.

In addition, based on your knowledge of the area, we would appreciate knowing what your thoughts are concerning the vegetative communities that existed at the time of the battle which took place in 1846. Could your botanists provide us with a map of their best estimates of what the distribution of plant communities looked like in 1846?

Lastly, as your staff is aware, a substantial portion of what will eventually become park lands is currently private property which is farmed or used as pasture. As these properties are

acquired and the park develops a resource management plan, one eventual objective may be to restore the vegetation back to a natural state. In his memorandum of August 3, 1992 (Consultation No. 2-11-92-I-210), Mr. Johnny French suggested that the National Park Service "... look for ways to restore, or allow the restoration of, habitat that was once considered so highly productive for this species (northern aplomado falcon). The Service would be willing to assist in carrying out this conservation recommendation."

For planning purposes, would you elaborate on what type(s) of assistance may be available? Would it be restricted to those portions of the park that are potential northern aplomado falcon habitat? Would this include staff time in the office and/or the field? Would it include funding support for research contracts and/or revegetation efforts? What amount of lead time do you ordinarily require for this sort of cooperative effort? This type of information will be most helpful, as the natural and cultural resource needs of the park could be integrated very well with a revegetation project.

We certainly appreciate your assistance in these matters! Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact Jerry McCrea, our Regional T&E Species Coordinator, at 505-988-6829.

/s/ John E. Cook

Enclosures

cc:

Tom Carroll, Superintendent, Palo Alto Battlefield, w/cy of list,
but not map

Dave Kenny, Denver Service Center, Central Team, w/cy of list,
but not map

Jill Cowley, Office of Assistant Regional Director, Planning,
SWRO, w/cy of list, but not map

Nancy Skinner, Division of Environmental Coordination, SWRO, w/cy
of list, but not map

December 7, 1992

Federally Listed Threatened and Endangered Species, Palo Alto
Battlefield National Historic Site

1. Currently Known to Occur:

- a. Endangered: none
- b. Threatened: none
- c. Category 1: none
- d. Category 2: Botteri's sparrow (Aimophila botterii)

entered
as present

2. Historically Known to Occur in the Area:

- a. Northern aplomado falcon (Falco femoralis septentrionalis)
- b. Jaguarundi (Felis yagouaroundi cacomitli)
- c. Ocelot (Felis pardalis)

} entered
as historic