



Proposed Rosemont Copper

Contact Record

Date 1 15 2010 Time 0800 A.M. P.M.

Name of Contact Charlie McDonald, Regional Botanist (and I have personal notes here, also, for SWCA information)

Company/Agency USDA Forest Service, Southwestern Region, Regional Office

Phone Number 505-842-3228

RE: *Hexalectris revoluta*

This plant is a very rare orchid that is only known from three localities on the Coronado National Forest and only a handful of other sites in New Mexico, Texas, and northern Mexico. Charlie said this is one of rarest orchids (and plants) known and we have them on the Coronado NF. The three localities are Cave Creek/Gardner

Canyon, Santa Rita Mountains, McCleary Canyon in area of proposed Rosemont Copper Mine, and in Baboquivari Mountains. It is on our Regional Forester's sensitive species list. We have received a FOIA request on this plant, possibly related to proposed federal listing. The AZ Game and Fish plant abstract from 2004 recommends this species be federally listed. Because it is only known from so few localities, it would seem that it should be protected in McCleary Canyon (i.e., biological rationale to select another alternative)

We do not have a Biological Evaluation from SWCA yet, so I do not know what it will say, but I expect that (at least) for the alternatives that include McCleary Canyon, the proposed action will "likely cause a trend toward federal listing" (note this is a deliberative statement, there are no official effects determinations at this time).

This orchard has many interested qualities: it is long-lived, rare at all known localities, lacks leaves, and may not flower for years at a time, as in times of drought. Charlie expects it would be nearly impossible to salvage and transplant individuals from the area because of their sub-

terranean characteristics make them extremely sensitive plants. However, he isn't positive and it might be worth a bit more research. He also suggests we try to track down Ron Coleman, whom he thinks is at University of Arizona, who is an authority on AZ orchids (but he doesn't think Dr Coleman is an orchid culturist).

RECORDED BY: Larry Jones, Biologist,
Coronado NF