

Dated: September 24, 1997.

Michael J. Spear,

Regional Director.

[FR Doc. 97-25842 Filed 9-29-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Availability of Draft Recovery Plan for the Morro Shoulderband Snail and Four Plants From Western San Luis Obispo County, California for Review and Comment

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of document availability.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) announces the availability for public review of the draft Recovery Plan for the Morro Shoulderband Snail and Four Plants from Western San Luis Obispo County. The snail and the four plants occur in coastal habitats between Nipomo and San Simeno Creek in Western San Luis Obispo County, California. These taxa were listed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on December 15, 1994 (59 FR 64613).

DATES: Comments on the draft recovery plan received by December 29, 1997, will be considered by the Service.

ADDRESSES: Persons wishing to review the draft recovery plan may obtain a copy by contacting the Field Supervisor at the following address: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 2493 Portola Road, Suite B, Ventura, California 93003 (phone: 805/644-1766). Comments and material received are available for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the above address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Diane Steeck, Botanist, or Kim Touneh, Invertebrate Zoologist, at the above Ventura address.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Restoring endangered or threatened animals and plants to the point where they are again secure, self-sustaining members of their ecosystems is a primary goal of the Service's endangered species program. To help guide the recovery effort, the Service is working to prepare recovery plans for most of the listed species native to the United States. Recovery plans describe actions considered necessary for the conservation of the species, establish criteria for the recovery levels needed to downlist or delist them, and estimate

time and cost for implementing the necessary recovery measures.

The Endangered Species Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) (Act), requires the development of recovery plans for listed species unless such a plan would not promote the conservation of a particular species. Section 4(f) of the Act as amended in 1988, requires that public notice and an opportunity for public review and comment be provided during recovery plan development. The Service will consider all information presented during the public comment period prior to approval of each new or revised recovery plan. The Service and other Federal agencies will also take these comments into account in the course of implementing approved recovery plans. Individualized responses to comments will not be provided.

This recovery plan includes one snail species that is listed as endangered, three plant taxa that are listed as endangered and one plant taxon that is listed as threatened. All are endemic to western San Luis Obispo County, California. The currently known range of the Morro shoulderband snail (*Helminthoglypta walkeriana*) includes the Morro Spit and those areas south of Morro Bay, west of Los Osos Creek and north of Hazard Canyon that still support coastal dune and sage scrub habitats. Morro manzanita (*Arctostaphylos morroensis*) is restricted to Baywood fine sands to the south of Morro Bay in stands of varying size scattered over approximately 890 acres. Five of the six known occurrences of Indian Knob mountainbalm (*Eriodictyon altissimum*) also occur south of Morro Bay, typically at the margins of chaparral and coastal sage scrub communities; the sixth occurrence, for which the species was named, is located about 15 miles to the south, at Indian Knob. Inland, Chorro Creek bog thistle (*Cirsium fontinale* var. *obispoense*) is known from nine locations between San Simeon and Pismo Beach, where it is restricted to serpentine seeps and springs. Pismo clarkia (*Clarkia speciosa* ssp. *immaculata*) is known from about a dozen locations in the area between Pismo Beach and Nipomo Mesa, where it is restricted to grasslands.

The Morro shoulderband snail is threatened principally by habitat destruction and degradation due to increasing development, invasion of non-native plant species (i.e. veldt grass), senescence of dune vegetation, and recreational use (e.g. off-road vehicle activity). Competition with the brown garden snail (*Helix aspersa*), molluscicides, and increased likelihood of extinction due to the small size and

isolation of populations are potential threats. Morro manzanita and Indian Knob mountainbalm are threatened with habitat destruction and degradation due to development, and possibly by invasion of non-native plant species, and senescence resulting from alteration in fire cycles. Threats to the Chorro Creek bog thistle include water diversion, road maintenance, excessive cattle trampling and, potentially, invasive non-native plants. The principal threat to the Pismo clarkia is habitat destruction and degradation due to development. Road maintenance activities, overgrazing, and competition with non-native grasses may also be threats.

This plan provides for the recovery of the snail, Morro manzanita, and Indian knob mountainbalm so that protection by the Act is no longer necessary. It provides for downlisting Chorro Creek bog thistle and Pismo clarkia to threatened status.

Protection and management of the species' habitat are the primary goals of the recovery effort.

Public Comments Solicited

The Service solicits written comments on the recovery plan. All comments recovery by the data specified above will be considered prior to revision and approval of this plan.

Authority

The authority for this action is section 4(f) of the Endangered Species Act, 16 U.S.C. 1533(f).

Dated: September 24, 1997.

Michael J. Spear,

Regional Director, Region 1, Portland, Oregon.

[FR Doc. 97-25843 Filed 9-29-97; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Availability of Draft Recovery Plan for the Seven Coastal Plants and the Myrtle's Silverspot Butterfly

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of document availability.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announces the availability for public review of a draft Recovery Plan for Seven Coastal Plants and the Myrtle's Silverspot Butterfly. The seven plants and the butterfly occur in coastal habitats from Humboldt County to Santa Barbara County.

DATES: Comments on the draft recovery plan received by December 29, 1997 will be considered by the Service.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the draft recovery plan are available for inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the following locations: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 3310 El Camino Ave., Suite 130, Sacramento, California 95821-6340 (phone: 916/979-2710); U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 2493 Portola Road, Suite B, Ventura, California 93003. Requests for copies of the draft recovery plan and written comments and materials regarding this plan should be addressed to Diane Noda, Field Supervisor, at the above Ventura address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Tim Thomas, Botanist, at the above Ventura address (phone: 805/644-1766).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Restoring endangered or threatened animals and plants to the point where they are again secure, self-sustaining members of their ecosystems is a primary goal of the Service's endangered species program. To help guide the recovery effort, the Service is working to prepare recovery plans for most of the listed species native to the United States. Recovery plans describe actions considered necessary for the conservation of the species, establish criteria for the recovery levels for downlisting or delisting them, and estimate time and cost for implementing the recovery measures needed.

The Endangered Species Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) (Act), requires the development of recovery plans for listed species unless such a plan would not promote the conservation of a particular species. Section 4(f) of the Act as amended in 1988 requires that public notice and an opportunity for public review and comment be provided during recovery plan development. The Service will consider all information presented during the public comment period prior to approval of each new or revised Recovery Plan. Substantive technical comments will result in changes to the plans. Substantive comments regarding recovery plan implementation may not necessarily result in changes to the recovery plans, but will be forwarded to appropriate Federal or other entities so that they can take these comments into account during the course of implementing recovery actions. Individualized responses to comments will not be provided.

These species are listed as endangered except for the threatened *Chorizanthe*

pungens var. *pungens*. *Chorizanthe howellii* is known from 3 populations with 23,700 individuals; *Chorizanthe pungens* var. *pungens* is known from 7 populations with 14 million individuals; *Chorizanthe valida*, one population with 30,000 individuals; *Erysimum menziesii* (three subspecies), 16 populations with 33,300 individuals; *Gilia tenuiflora* ssp. *arenaria*, 15 populations with 110,400 individuals; *Layia carnosa*, 19 populations with 300,000 individuals; *Lupinus tidestromii*, 7 populations with 433 individuals; and the Myrtle's Silverspot butterfly, 3 populations with 10,000 individuals. The plants are restricted to the foredunes and dune scrub vegetation and adjacent sandy habitats occupied by coastal scrub or coastal prairie of northern and central coastal California. The butterfly occurs in the coastal grasslands and scrub, with the larval host plant (a violet) in the immediate vicinity of Point Reyes, Marin County. All of these species are threatened by competition from non-native plants, loss of habitat from commercial and residential development, and habitat disturbance from recreation and grazing.

The objective of this plan is to conserve the seven plants and the butterfly so that protection by the Act is no longer necessary. The plant species will be recovered by restoring and protecting dune habitats on which they depend. Assuring long-term protection of public and privately-owned habitat is essential. Habitat conservation planning, as provided for listed animals by the Endangered Species Act will be helpful. Once land is protected, the primary means to accomplish recovery is by controlling non-native invasive plant species. Long-term commitment of resources by public agencies to maintain weed control and other management measures will be essential. Artificial creation of new populations is recommended only as a last resort.

The recovery strategy for the Myrtle's silverspot butterfly is to protect, manage and secure the three known population sites. Monitoring will be required for at least 10 consecutive years to determine if butterfly populations (numbers) are relatively stable and the sites adequately protected, so the Myrtle's silverspot may be considered for de-listing. Some new populations may be established in areas from which the species has been extirpated, if suitable sites are found.

Public Comments Solicited

The Service solicits written comments on the recovery plan described. All comments received by the date specified above will be considered prior to approval of this plan.

Authority

The authority for this action is section 4(f) of the Endangered Species Act, 16 U.S.C. 1533(f).

Dated: September 24, 1997.

Michael J. Spear,

Regional Director, Region 1, Portland, Oregon.
[FR Doc. 97-25844 Filed 9-29-97; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Availability of Draft Recovery Plan for the Shasta Crayfish (*Pacifastacus fortis*) for Review and Comment

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of document availability.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) announces the availability for public review of the draft Recovery Plan for the Shasta Crayfish (*Pacifastacus fortis*). This distribution of this crayfish is limited to the Pit River drainage in Shasta County, California. This taxa was listed as an endangered species by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on September 30, 1988 (53 FR 38460).

DATES: Comments on the draft recovery plan received by December 29, 1997 will be considered by the Service.

ADDRESSES: Persons wishing to review the draft recovery plan may obtain a copy by contacting the Field Supervisor at the following address: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 3310 El Camino Ave., Suite 130, Sacramento, California 95821 (phone: 916/979-2710). Comments and material received are available for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the above address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ann Chrisney, Fish and Wildlife Biologist, or Karen Miller, Recovery Coordinator, at the above Sacramento address.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The distribution of the Shasta crayfish is limited to the midsections of the Pit River drainage, primarily the Fall River and Hat Creek subdrainages in Shasta County, California. Overall, Shasta crayfish populations have low abundance and fragmented distribution with migration and genetic exchange between populations limited by hydroelectric development and habitat loss. The limits of its geographic distribution appear to have changed little over time. Currently, there are