

1997, from 8:30 a.m. to 1:15 p.m., and 1:45 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., the meeting is open to the public. Interested persons may present data, information, or views, orally or in writing, on issues pending before the committee. Written submissions may be made to the contact person by October 1, 1997. Oral presentations from the public will be scheduled between approximately 8:45 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. on both days. Time allotted for each presentation may be limited. Those desiring to make formal oral presentations should notify the contact person before October 1, 1997, and submit a brief statement of the general nature of the evidence or arguments they wish to present, the names and addresses of proposed participants, and an indication of the approximate time requested to make their presentation.

Closed Committee Deliberations: On October 7, 1997, from 1:15 p.m. to 1:45 p.m., the meeting will be closed to permit discussion and review of trade secret and/or confidential commercial or financial information (5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(4)). The meeting will be closed to discuss trade secret and/or confidential information concerning the manufacture of the products under discussion.

FDA regrets that it was unable to publish this notice 15 days prior to the October 6 and 7, 1997, Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies Advisory Committee meeting. Because the agency believes there is some urgency to bring this issue to public discussion and qualified members of the Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies Advisory Committee were available at this time, the Commissioner concluded that it was in the public interest to hold this meeting even if there was not sufficient time for the customary 15-day public notice.

Notice of this meeting is given under the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. app. 2).

Dated: September 16, 1997.

Michael A. Friedman,

Deputy Commissioner for Operations.

[FR Doc. 97-25264 Filed 9-23-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4160-01-F

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Food and Drug Administration

Advisory Committee; Notice of Meeting

AGENCY: Food and Drug Administration, HHS.

ACTION: Notice.

This notice announces a forthcoming meeting of a public advisory committee of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). At least one portion of the meeting will be closed to the public.

Name of Committee: Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee.

General Function of the Committee: To provide advice and recommendations to the agency on FDA regulatory issues.

Date and Time: The meeting will be held on October 16, 1997, 12:30 p.m. to 3:15 p.m.

Location: Food and Drug Administration, Bldg. 29, conference room 121, 8800 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, MD. This meeting will be held by a telephone conference call. A speaker telephone will be provided in the conference room to allow public participation in the meeting.

Contact Person: Nancy T. Cherry or Denise H. Royster, Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research (HFM-21), Food and Drug Administration, 1401 Rockville Pike, Rockville, MD 20852, 301-827-0314, or FDA Advisory Committee Information Line, 1-800-741-8138 (301-443-0572 in the Washington, DC area), code 12388. Please call the Information Line for up-to-date information on this meeting.

Agenda: The committee will discuss the intramural scientific program of the Laboratory of Pertussis.

Procedure: On October 16, 1997, from 12:30 p.m. to 1:15 p.m., and 2:15 p.m. to 3:15 p.m., the meeting is open to the public. Interested persons may present data, information, or views, orally or in writing, on issues pending before the committee. Written submissions may be made to the contact person by October 9, 1997. Oral presentations from the public will be scheduled between approximately 2:15 p.m. and 3:15 p.m. Time allotted for each presentation may be limited. Those desiring to make formal oral presentations should notify the contact person before October 9, 1997, and submit a brief statement of the general nature of the evidence or arguments they wish to present, the names and addresses of proposed participants, and an indication of the approximate time requested to make their presentation.

Closed Committee Deliberations: On October 16, 1997, from 1:15 p.m. to 2:15 p.m., the meeting will be closed to permit discussion where disclosure would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy (5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(6)). The meeting will be closed to discuss personal information concerning individuals associated with the research program.

Notice of this meeting is given under the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. app. 2).

Dated: September 16, 1997.

Michael A. Friedman,

Deputy Commissioner for Operations.

[FR Doc. 97-25267 Filed 9-23-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4160-01-F

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Notice of Availability of a Technical/ Agency Draft Recovery Plan for *Gesneria pauciflora* for Review and Comment

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of document availability.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announces availability for public review of a technical/agency draft recovery plan for *Gesneria pauciflora* (no common name). This small shrub, designated as threatened, is endemic to Puerto Rico. Only three populations are known to occur in the western mountains of Puerto Rico. The species is threatened by natural disasters and the modification of its highly restricted habitat. The Service solicits review and comments from the public on this draft plan.

DATES: Comments on the draft recovery plan must be received on or before November 24, 1997 to receive consideration by the Service.

ADDRESSES: Persons wishing to review the draft recovery plan may obtain a copy by contacting Ms. Susan Silander, Boquerón Field Office, P.O. Box 491, Boquerón, Puerto Rico 00622. Comments and materials received are available upon request for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the above address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Susan Silander, Boquerón Field Office, P.O. Box 491, Boquerón, Puerto Rico 00622, Telephone: 809/851-7297.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Restoring an endangered or threatened species or plant to the point where it is again a secure, self-sustaining member of its ecosystem is a primary goal of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife 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 conservation of the species, establish them, and estimate time and cost for implementing the recovery measures needed.

The Endangered Species Act of 1973 (Act), as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) 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 and other Federal agencies will also take these comments into account in the course of implementing approved recovery plans.

This Technical/Agency Draft is for *Gesneria pauciflora* (no common name), a small gregarious shrub which is currently known from only three populations in the western mountains of Puerto Rico. These occur in the municipalities of Maricao and Sabana Grande. Population estimates are difficult due to the plant's habit of growing in dense mats. At all known localities the species is found growing in rocky stream beds on wet serpentine rock, where water is constantly seeping. The species is threatened by the occurrence of natural disasters and the modification of its highly restricted habitat. The largest population is located in an area of steep unstable slopes and may be threatened by landslides and flood damage. Forest management practices such as trail maintenance may also adversely affect the species. This plan will describe measures necessary to recover the species, including studies of its reproductive biology and propagation.

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 the plan.

Authority

The authority for this action is Section 4(f) of the Endangered Species Act, 16 U.S.C. 1531.

Dated: September 17, 1997.

Susan R. Silander,

Acting Field Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 97-25335 Filed 9-23-97; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Notice of Availability of a Technical/Agency Draft Recovery Plan for *Mitracarpus Maxwelliae*, *Mitracarpus Polycladus*, and *Eugenia Woodburyana* for Review and Comment

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of document availability.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announces availability for public review of a technical/agency draft recovery plan for *Mitracarpus maxwelliae*, *Mitracarpus polycladus*, and *Eugenia woodburyana*. *M. maxwelliae*, a small shrub, and *E. woodburyana*, a small tree, are endemic to southwestern Puerto Rico. *M. polycladus*, a small shrub, is found in southwestern Puerto Rico as well, but is also known from the island of Saba, in the Lesser Antilles. These species are threatened by road construction, recreational activities, wildfires, and land clearing associated with development for agriculture and other purposes. The Service solicits review and comments from the public on this draft plan.

DATES: Comments on the draft recovery plan must be received on or before November 24, 1997 to receive consideration by the Service.

ADDRESSES: Persons wishing to review the draft recovery plan may obtain a copy by contacting Ms. Susan Silander, Boquerón Field Office, P.O. Box 491, Boquerón, Puerto Rico 00622. Comments and materials received are available upon request for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the above address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Susan Silander, Boquerón Field Office, P.O. Box 491, Boquerón, Puerto Rico 00622, Telephone: 809/851-7297.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Restoring an endangered or threatened species or plant to the point where it is again a secure, self-sustaining member of its ecosystem is a primary goal of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife 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 conservation of the species, establish them, and estimate

time and cost for implementing the recovery measures needed.

The Endangered Species Act of 1973 (Act), as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) 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 and other Federal agencies will also take these comments into account in the course of implementing approved recovery plans.

This Technical/Agency Draft is for *Mitracarpus maxwelliae*, *Mitracarpus polycladus*, and *Eugenia woodburyana* (no common names), three species that are known from the southwestern portion of Puerto Rico. *Mitracarpus maxwelliae* is a low densely-branching, mound-like shrub known only from one locality in the Guánica Commonwealth Forest of arid southwestern Puerto Rico. *M. polycladus*, also a small perennial shrub, is known in Puerto Rico from only two locations in the Guánica Commonwealth Forest, where it grows in crevices and soil pockets of coastal rocks. It is also known from the island of Saba in the Lesser Antilles. *Eugenia woodburyana*, a small evergreen tree reaching 6 feet in height, is endemic to Puerto Rico and is known only from the municipalities of Lajas, Cabo Rojo, and Guánica in southwestern Puerto Rico. It is known from the Guánica Commonwealth Forest and the Cabo Rojo National Wildlife Refuge, publicly owned land, as well as privately-owned land. These three species are threatened by road construction, recreational activities, wildfires, and land clearing associated with urban, rural, tourist and agricultural development. This plan will describe measures necessary to recover the species, including studies of its reproductive biology and propagation.

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 the plan.

Authority

The authority for this action is Section 4(f) of the Endangered Species Act, 16 U.S.C. 1531.

Dated: September 17, 1997.

Susan R. Silander,

Acting Field Supervisor.

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