

Phyllostegia hirsuta, *Phyllostegia kaalaensis*, *Phyllostegia mollis*, *Sanicula mariversa*, *Schiedea kaalae*, *Schiedea kealiae*, *Silene perlmanii*, *Stenogyne kanehoana*, *Tetramolopium filiforme*, *Tetramolopium lepidotum* ssp. *lepidotum*, *Trematolobelia singularis*, *Viola chamissoniana* ssp. *chamissoniana*, and *Viola oahuensis*).

For downlisting, a total of five to seven populations of each taxon should be documented on islands where they now occur or occurred historically. In certain cases, however, a particular taxon may be eligible for downlisting even if all five to seven of the populations are on only one island, provided all of the other recovery criteria have been met and the populations in question are widely distributed and secure enough that one might reasonably conclude that the taxon is not in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant part of its range.

Each of these populations must be naturally reproducing, stable or increasing in number, and secure from threats, with a minimum of 100 mature individuals per population for long-lived perennials, a minimum of 300 mature individuals per population for short-lived perennials and a minimum of 500 mature individuals per population for the annuals. Each population should persist at this level for a minimum of five consecutive years before downlisting is considered. A total of eight to ten populations of each taxon should be documented on islands where they now occur or occurred historically. As with downlisting, there may be certain cases in which a particular taxon may be eligible for delisting even if all eight to ten of the populations are on only one island, provided all of the other recovery criteria have been met and the populations in question are widely distributed and secure enough that one might reasonably conclude that the taxon is not in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant part of its range. Each of these populations must be naturally reproducing, stable or increasing in number, and secure from threats, with a minimum of 100 mature individuals per population for long-lived perennials, a minimum of 300 mature individuals per population for short-lived perennials and a minimum of 500 mature individuals per population for the annual taxon. Each population should persist at this level for a minimum of five consecutive years.

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.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Availability of Draft Recovery Plan for Two Insects and Four Plants From the Santa Cruz Mountains 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 a draft Recovery Plan for Two Insects and Four Plants from the Santa Cruz Mountains. The two insects and four plants occur on sandy soils in the Santa Cruz Mountains, Santa Cruz County, California.

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 location: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 2493 Portola Road, Suite B, Ventura, California 93003 (phone: 805/644-1766). Requests for copies of the draft recovery plan and written comments and materials regarding this plan should be addressed to, Ms. Diane K. Noda, Field Supervisor, at the above Ventura address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Connie Rutherford, Botanist, 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 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 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.

The two insects and three of the four plants addressed in this recovery plan are listed as endangered. The fourth plant (Scotts Valley polygonum) is a species of concern to the Service.

The Mount Hermon June beetle (*Polyphylla barbata*) is known from 28 collection sites in the area generally bounded by Ben Lomond, Mount Hermon, and Scotts Valley. Populations receiving some protection occur on Quail Hollow Ranch. The remaining populations occur on private land.

The Zayante band-winged grasshopper (*Trimerotropis infantilis*) is known from 10 collection sites in the area generally bounded by Ben Lomond, Mount Hermon, and Mission Springs. All populations occur on private land.

Ben Lomond spineflower (*Chorizanthe pungens* var. *hartwegiana*) is known from 21 populations; most occur between Ben Lomond, Mount Hermon, and Glenwood. Outlying populations are located near Bonny Doon, Boulder Creek, and Big Basin State Park. Populations receiving some protection occur on Bonny Doon Ecologic Preserve, Quail Hollow Ranch, and Big Basin State Park. The remaining populations are found on private land.

Scotts Valley spineflower (*Chorizanthe robusta* var. *hartwegii*) is known from three sites on private land north of Scotts Valley.

Ben Lomond wallflower (*Erysimum teretifolium*) is known from 15

populations; most occur between Ben Lomond, Mount Hermon, and Glenwood. Outlying populations are located near Bonny Doon. Populations receiving some protection occur on Bonny Doon Ecologic Preserve and Quail Hollow Ranch. The remaining populations are found on private land.

Scotts Valley polygonum (*Polygonum hickmanii*) is known from four colonies north of Scotts Valley, all of which occur in the same general area as *Chorizanthe robusta* var. *hartwegii*.

These taxa are variously threatened by one or more of the following: sand mining, urban development, agricultural conversion, equestrian use, recreational activities, alteration in fire cycles, and competition with nonnatives vegetation. For the two insect taxa, collection and pesticide use are recognized as potential threats. In addition, the very low numbers of individuals and populations of some of these taxa put them at great risk of extinction due to random naturally occurring events.

The objective of this plan is to provide a framework for the recovery of the two insects and the four plants so that protection by the Act is no longer necessary. Actions necessary to accomplish this objective include: protecting species habitats through acquisition, conservation easements, and Habitat Conservation Plans; managing species habitats; conducting management-oriented research on the ecology and biology of the species; reviewing and revising management and recovery guidelines; and locating additional populations.

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 final 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 18, 1997.

Thomas J. Dwyer,

Acting Regional Director, Region 1, Portland, Oregon.

[FR Doc. 97-25838 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 Nightingale Reed-Warbler (*Acrocephalus luscini*) 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 a draft recovery plan for the nightingale reed-warbler (*Acrocephalus luscini*). This species is known only from the Mariana Islands and is currently limited to essentially 2 islands, with a remnant population on a third island, in this archipelago with a total population of approximately 6,225-6,230 individuals.

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, Pacific Islands Office, 300 Ala Moana Boulevard, Room 3108, P.O. Box 50088, Honolulu, Hawaii 96850 (phone: 808/541-3441); the Northern Marianas College Library, P.O. Box 1250, Asterlaje Campus, Saipan, MP 96950 (phone: 670/234-5498, extension 1121/2); and University of Guam, RFK Memorial Library, UOG Station, Mangilao, Guam 96923 (phone: 671/734-9412). Requests for copies of the draft recovery plan and written comments and materials regarding the plan should be addressed to Brooks Harper, Field Supervisor-Ecological Services of the Pacific Islands Office at the Honolulu address given above.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Karen Rosa, Assistant Field Supervisor-Endangered Species, at the Honolulu address given above.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Restoring endangered or threatened animals and plants to the point where they are again secure, self-sustaining members of their ecosystem 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, its Territories and Commonwealths. Recovery plans describe actions considered necessary for conservation of the species, criteria for recognizing the

recovery levels for downlisting or delisting them, and initial estimates of times and costs to implement the recovery measures needed.

The Endangered Species Act of 1973, 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 a public notice and an opportunity for public review and comment be provided during recovery plan development. The Service will consider all information presented during a public comment period prior to approval of each new or revised recovery plan. Substantive technical comments will result in changes to the plan. Substantive comments regarding recovery plan implementation may not necessarily result in changes to the recovery plan, 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.

The species being considered in this recovery plan is the nightingale reed-warbler (*Acrocephalus luscini*). The species is historically known from five islands in the Marianas archipelago: Guam, Aguiguan, Saipan, Alamagan, and Pagan. It is now extirpated from Guam and Pagan, and near extirpation on Aguiguan. Destruction of wetland areas and predation by the introduced brown tree snake (*Boiga irregularis*) are believed to have caused the extinction on Guam. Habitat destruction due to feral ungulates and, ultimately, vulcanism, are believed to have extirpated the Pagan population. Large areas of reed-warbler habitat were converted to agriculture during the German (1899-1917) and Japanese (1917-1944) administrations and native forest was further damaged during World War II battles. Although populations of reed-warblers flourished on Saipan with the reversion of former agricultural land to scrubby habitats after World War II, this trend has reversed recently as land has been developed for agriculture, homesteads, and tourist-related facilities. Hence, the amount of suitable habitat has been declining. Habitat on Aguiguan and Alamagan has been severely degraded by the continuing presence of large feral goat populations. All of these factors have led to reduction or extirpation of reed-warbler populations from most of the Mariana Islands. A small remnant population persists on Aguiguan, while larger populations persist on Saipan and