

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]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

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

Alamagan. Habitat loss and exotic predators, such as the brown tree snake, monitor lizard (*Varanus indicus*), rat (*Rattus* spp.), and domestic cat (*Felis catus*), continue to be the greatest threats to the survival of the nightingale reed-warbler.

The nightingale reed-warbler is currently represented by populations on three islands with a total number of individuals estimated to be 6,225–6,230 birds. The objective of this plan is to provide a framework for the recovery of this species so that protection by the Endangered Species Act (ESA) is no longer necessary. Recommended recovery actions emphasize protection of the existing populations from introduction of the brown tree snake and from existing threats, such as other predators, feral ungulates, and habitat alteration. It is recommended that populations be established on at least three additional islands in the Mariana Island chain. Further research on population dynamics is also needed.

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. 97–25839 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 Endangered Speckled Dace of Clover and Independence Valleys (*Rhinichthys osculus lethoporus* and *Rhinichthys osculus oligoporus*) 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 endangered speckled dace of Clover and Independence Valleys in Elko County, Nevada. This plan undertakes a multispecies approach by discussing the

recovery needs of two native, endangered fish species.

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 State Supervisor, Nevada State Office, Fish and Wildlife Service, 4600 Kietzke Lane, Suite 125C, Reno, Nevada 89502 (telephone: 702/784–5227). Written comments and materials regarding the plan should be addressed to the State Supervisor at the above Reno, Nevada address. Comments and materials received are available on request for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the above Reno, Nevada address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Stephanie Byers at the above Reno, Nevada address (telephone: 702/784–5227).

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.

Independence Valley speckled dace inhabit the Independence Valley Warm Springs system in Elko County, Nevada, and it is the only system from which these fish are known. Clover Valley

speckled dace reside in three spring systems in Clover Valley in Elko County, Nevada. These springs are Clover Valley Warm Springs, Bradish Spring, and Wright Ranch Spring. Current population distributions and abundances are unknown for either dace. Primary threats to each species at the time of listing were a limited distribution, habitat manipulation, small population size, and nonnative fish introductions. Recovery of these species will require removal and/or control of nonnative fishes and cooperative agreements with landowners to protect habitat.

The Service solicits written comments on the recovery plan. All comments received by the date 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. 97–25840 Filed 9–29–97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310–55–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Availability of a Draft Recovery Plan for the El Segundo Blue Butterfly for Review and Comment

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of document availability.

SUMMARY: The Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) announces the availability for public review of a draft recovery plan for the El Segundo blue butterfly (*Euphilotes battoides allyni*). The El Segundo blue butterfly occurs on local and private lands in southwestern Los Angeles County, California. The Service solicits review and comment from the public on this plan.

DATES: Comments on the draft recovery plan must be received on or before December 29, 1997 to receive consideration 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: Carlsbad Field Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 2730 Loker Avenue West, Carlsbad, California 92008. Telephone requests may be made by calling 760/431–9440. Comments and material received are available for public inspection by