

Delegations of Authority of the Department of Health and Human Services (45 FR 67772-76, dated October 14, 1980, and corrected at 45 FR 69296, October 20, 1980, as amended most recently at 62 FR 46751, dated September 4, 1997) is amended to reflect a change in the official administrative code for the Office of Communication, Centers for Disease Control And Prevention, as published at 62 FR 29142, dated May 29, 1997.

Section C-B, Organization and Functions, is hereby amended as follows:

Following the title for the *Office of Communication*, change the official standard administrative code designation from (CA3) to (CAA).

Following the title for the *Office of the Director, Office of Communication*, change the official standard administrative code designation from (CA31) to (CAA1).

Following the title for the *Division of Health Communication, Office of Communication*, change the official standard administrative code designation from (CA32) to (CAA2).

Following the title for the *Division of Media Relations, Office of Communication*, change the official standard administrative code designation from (CA33) to (CAA3).

Dated: October 7, 1997.

**David Satcher,**  
Director.

[FR Doc. 97-28083 Filed 10-22-97; 8:45 am]

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directions at SAMHSA. Public comments are welcome. Please communicate with the individual listed as Contact below to make arrangements to comment or to request special accommodations for persons with disabilities.

A summary of the meeting and/or a roster of committee members may be obtained from: Pamela M. Perry, Executive Secretary, Advisory Committee for Women's Services, Office for Women's Services, SAMHSA, Parklawn Building, Room 13-99, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, Maryland 20857, Telephone: (301) 443-5184.

Substantive information may be obtained from the contact whose name and telephone number is listed below.

**Committee Name:** Advisory Committee for Women's Services.

**Meeting Date(s):** November 17-18, 1997.

**Place:** Versailles I Room, Holiday Inn Hotel—Bethesda, 8120 Wisconsin Avenue, Bethesda, MD 20814.

**Open:** November 17: 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. November 18: 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

**Contact:** Pamela M. Perry, Room 13-99, Parklawn Building, Telephone (301) 443-5184.

Dated: October 17, 1997.

**Jeri Lipov,**

Committee Management Officer, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

[FR Doc. 97-28013 Filed 10-22-97; 8:45 am]

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Fish and Wildlife Service, 1849 C Street, N.W., Mail Stop 452 ARLSQ, Washington, D.C. 20240.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** E. LaVerne Smith, Chief, Division of Endangered Species (see **ADDRESSES** section) (telephone 703/358-2171).

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

##### **Background**

The Service adopted guidelines on September 21, 1983 (48 FR 43098), that govern the assignment of priorities to species under consideration for listing as endangered or threatened under section 4 of the Act. The Service adopted those guidelines to establish a rational system for allocating available appropriations to the highest priority species when adding species to the lists of endangered or threatened wildlife and plants or reclassifying threatened species to endangered status. The system places greatest importance on the immediacy and magnitude of threats, but also factors in the level of taxonomic distinctiveness by assigning priority in descending order to monotypic genera, full species, and subspecies (or equivalently, distinct population segments of vertebrates). However, this system does not provide for prioritization among different listing actions such as preliminary determinations, proposed listings, and final listings.

The enactment of Pub. L. 104-6 in April, 1995, rescinded \$1.5 million from the Service's budget for carrying out listing activities through the remainder of FY 1995. Pub. L. 104-6 prohibited the expenditure of the remaining appropriated funds for final determinations to list species or designate critical habitat which, in effect, placed a moratorium on those activities. The net effect of the moratorium and reductions in funding was that the Service's listing program was essentially shut down. The moratorium on final listings and the budget constraints remained in effect until April 26, 1996, when President Clinton approved the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1996 and exercised the authority that the Act gave him to waive the moratorium. At that time, the Service had accrued a backlog of proposed listings for 243 species. The extremely limited funding available to the Service for listing activities generally precluded petition processing and the development of proposed listings from October 1, 1995, through April 26, 1996.

When the moratorium was lifted and funds were appropriated for the administration of the listing program,

## **DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

### **Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration**

#### **Office for Women's Services; Notice of Meeting**

Pursuant to Pub. L. 92-463, notice is hereby given of the meeting of the Advisory Committee for Women's Services of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) in November, 1997.

The meeting of the Advisory Committee for Women's Services will include a discussion of and update on policy and program issues relating to women's substance abuse and mental health service needs at SAMHSA, including the SAMHSA fiscal year 1998 budget and reauthorization; women in senior level positions at SAMHSA; gender issues in SAMHSA's managed care activities; FY 98 Knowledge Development and Application Grants; and future women's policy and program

## **DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

### **Fish and Wildlife Service**

#### **Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Extension of Listing Priority Guidance for Fiscal Year 1997**

**AGENCY:** Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) announces an extension of the fiscal year (FY) 1997 guidance for assigning relative priorities to listing actions conducted under section 4 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) (Act). The FY 1997 guidance will remain in effect until the FY 1998 appropriations bill for the Department of the Interior becomes law and new final guidance is published in the **Federal Register**.

**ADDRESSES:** Questions concerning this notice should be submitted to the Chief, Division of Endangered Species, U.S.

the Service faced the considerable task of allocating the available resources to the significant backlog of listing activities. The Service published Final Listing Priority Guidance for FY 1997 on December 5, 1996 (61 FR 64475). The Listing Priority Guidance system employed 4 tiers for assigning relative priorities to listing actions to be carried out under section 4 of the Act. Tier 1, the processing of emergency listings for species facing a significant risk to their well-being, remains the Service's highest priority. The processing of final decisions on pending proposed listings is assigned to Tier 2. Tier 3 includes resolving the conservation status of species identified as candidates and processing 90-day or 12-month administrative findings on petitions to list or reclassify species from threatened to endangered status. Preparation of proposed or final critical habitat designations, and processing of reclassifications, which provide little or no additional conservation benefit to listed species, are assigned lowest priority (Tier 4).

While operating the listing program under the Final FY 1997 Listing Priority Guidance, the Service focused its resources on issuing final determinations (Tier 2 listing activities). After April 1, 1997, the Service began implementing a more balanced listing program and began processing more Tier 3 listing actions. The continuing (though reduced) backlog and funding limitations underscore the need to maintain program-wide biologically sound priorities to guide the allocation of limited resources.

#### **Extension of Listing Priority Guidance for Fiscal Year 1997**

The Department of the Interior has not yet received a FY 1998 appropriation. Under the current continuing resolution, the Service continues to operate at FY 1997 funding levels. Until the FY 1998 appropriation is enacted, the funding level for the endangered species listing activity remains unknown, and issuance of FY 1998 listing priority guidance remains premature. Therefore, until the Department of the Interior's 1998 appropriation becomes law and final Listing Priority Guidance for FY 1998 is published in the **Federal Register**, the Service will continue to follow the FY 1997 guidance, issued on December 5, 1996. The Service will announce new proposed guidance as promptly as possible after the FY 1998 appropriations bill for the Department of the Interior is approved and becomes law.

#### **Authority**

The authority for this notice is the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*

Dated: October 17, 1997.

**Jamie Rappaport Clark,**

*Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.*

[FR Doc. 97-28171 Filed 10-20-97; 3:26 pm]

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## **DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

### **Fish and Wildlife Service**

#### **Preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement in Anticipation of Receiving a Permit Application to Incidentally Take Threatened and Endangered Species in Association With the Kern County Valley Floor Habitat Conservation Plan for Kern County, California**

**AGENCY:** Fish and Wildlife Service; Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement and to hold a public scoping meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The Fish and Wildlife Service has under consideration for approval the draft Kern County Valley Floor Habitat Conservation Plan (Plan) submitted by Kern County, California. This 30-year Plan, developed by Kern County and six other participating agencies, is expected to accompany a future application to the Service for a permit under Section 10(a) of the Endangered Species Act that would authorize incidental take of listed species. In addition, it is expected the applicants will request implementing agreements. It is anticipated that the implementing agreements will include provisions for species that may be listed in the future. In response to the proposed Plan, the Service intends to prepare a joint Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act and the California Environmental Quality Act. The Plan covers about 3,110 square miles of land with major uses including natural open space, oil and gas production, farming, ranching, agricultural water conveyance and storage, urban development and other activities. The Plan addresses various sensitive plant and animal species and their habitats. The Plan creates a framework for the issuance of permits and other authorizations under the Federal and California Endangered Species Acts.

This notice describes the proposed action and possible alternatives, notifies the public of a scoping meeting, invites

public participation in the scoping process for preparing the joint Environmental Impact Statement/Report, solicits written comments, and identifies the Service official to whom questions and comments concerning the proposed action and the joint Environmental Impact Statement/Report may be directed.

**DATES:** A public scoping meeting will be held at 1:00 p.m. on November 4, 1997, at the Kern County Public Services Building, 2700 M Street, First Floor Conference Room, Bakersfield, California. Oral comments will be received during the scoping meeting. Written comments are encouraged and should be received on or before November 21, 1997, at the address below.

**ADDRESSES:** Information, comments, or questions related to preparation of the joint Environmental Impact Statement/Report and the National Environmental Policy Act process should be submitted to Mr. Steve Strait, Kern County Planning Department, 2700 M Street, Suite 100, Bakersfield, California 93301, telephone (805) 862-8600. Written comments also may be sent by facsimile to telephone (805) 862-8601.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. Peter Cross, Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Office, 3310 El Camino Avenue, Suite 130, Sacramento, California 95821, telephone (916) 979-2725. Documents also will be available for public inspection by appointment during normal business hours (8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday) at the above noted Kern County Planning Department office.

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

##### **Background**

The Plan area, generally described as the San Joaquin Valley floor, is bounded by Kern County and San Luis Obispo County boundaries to the west, Kings and Tulare counties to the north, and the 2,000-foot elevation contour to the east and south. The Plan generally does not address Metropolitan Bakersfield with the exception of oil and agricultural activities, or several smaller areas that are covered under separate conservation planning efforts.

The Plan addresses 32 species, including 18 animals and 14 plants identified as species of concern. Of the wildlife species, five receive particular attention due to their distribution within the Plan area. They are: the blunt-nosed leopard lizard (*Gambelia silas*), San Joaquin antelope squirrel (*Ammospermophilus nelsoni*), Tipton kangaroo rat (*Dipodomys nitratoides nitratoides*), giant kangaroo rat