

threaten the existence of the species at this time or in the foreseeable future.

Genetics

The genus *Rhyacotriton* has always been perceived as genetically isolated from other genera of salamanders (Good and Wake 1992). Research by Good and others in 1987 (Good *et al.* 1987 in Good and Wake 1992) showed "extreme and unexpectedly high levels of genetic differentiation" for *Rhyacotriton olympicus*, which at that time was considered a single species over the Pacific Northwest. Good *et al.* (1987 in Good and Wake 1992) divided *Rhyacotriton* into four genetically different populations. Good and Wake (1992) concluded that four separate species should be recognized within the genus *Rhyacotriton*, one of which is *Rhyacotriton variegatus*, the southern torrent salamander.

The genetic diversity within the southern torrent salamander is evidence of very low gene flow between populations. Good and Wake (1992) suggest that gene flow between populations of southern torrent salamanders at the extreme ends of the species' range is not likely to occur, but that gene flow among adjacent populations of southern torrent salamanders is what holds the species together as a cohesive unit. In reference to southern torrent salamander populations, Wake (*in litt.* 1994) stated "the genetic differentiation is strongly structured geographically, so that there is a pattern of isolation by distance. What this means is that genetic distance between populations builds directly as a function of geographic distance." In other words, as the geographical distance between populations increases, populations become more genetically different and isolated. This finding strongly implies that animals within each population seldom left their respective populations or moved between populations over a period of thousands of years (Wake, *in litt.* 1994). Therefore, southern torrent salamanders show a great deal of genetic differentiation between individual animals from different populations, but show very little differentiation between individuals within the same population.

Dr. Susan Haig and Steve Wagner of United States Geological Service in Corvallis, Oregon, have been conducting genetic studies on mitochondrial DNA sequences of the southern torrent salamander to investigate the extent of population divergence and the relationships among populations. The results of these studies will be evaluated after they have been peer-reviewed and published.

Because of the naturally low gene flow between southern torrent salamander populations and the great amount of genetic diversity between individuals within the species, the loss of subpopulations could mean a significant loss of genetic diversity. Low genetic diversity within a population or subpopulation is thought to decrease that group's ability to withstand catastrophic natural events or manmade impacts. We believe that the most vulnerable populations of southern torrent salamanders are those found on the southern and eastern edges of the range. These populations are suspected to be the most distinct genetically (Wake, *in litt.* 1994) and the most susceptible to the negative impacts of timber harvest. Although we recognize the implications of low genetic diversity for the southern torrent salamander, until adequate genetic studies are completed, information is lacking to make a determination that low genetic diversity and gene flow threaten the continued existence of the species. We will reevaluate this issue after results of ongoing genetic studies are available. However, we recommend that populations at the edge of the range be given high priority for determining population status and trends.

Conclusion

We recognize that the southern torrent salamander has very specific habitat requirements, a naturally patchy distribution across its range, and low gene flow between populations. The southern torrent salamander is not considered to be dependent solely on old-growth forests, but the preferred microclimate conditions are more readily available in mature and old-growth forests. We acknowledge that logging of headwater habitats in old-growth forests has depressed or extirpated some populations of this species. However, we believe that the trend of habitat loss for the southern torrent salamander is lessening across much of the range with a reduction in clearcutting and with some increased awareness and some protections of headwater habitats. The southern torrent salamander is present throughout its historical range, including populations in altered habitats, despite little or no stream protection at the time they were logged. Relevant ongoing research is being conducted on headwater habitats and the southern torrent salamander, but a current lack of general baseline information exists on population status and trends, and genetic diversity of the species.

On the basis of the best available scientific and commercial information, we find that the southern torrent salamander is not likely to become an endangered species within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range. Therefore, listing the species as threatened is not warranted at the present time. The southern torrent salamander will remain as a species of concern for which evidence of vulnerability exists, but for which substantial data are lacking to support a proposal to list as threatened or endangered. We will continue to seek information on the status of the southern torrent salamander, and, if information becomes available indicating that listing as endangered or threatened is appropriate, we would propose to list the salamander. Furthermore, we retain the option of recognizing a subspecies or a population segment for listing should information become available indicating that such an action is appropriate and warranted.

References Cited

A complete list of all references cited herein is available on request from the Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Office (see ADDRESSES section).

Author. The primary author of this notice is Ann Chrisney, Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Office (see ADDRESSES section).

Authority: The authority for this section is the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

Dated: May 31, 2000.

Jamie Rapaport Clark,

Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

[FR Doc. 00-14084 Filed 6-5-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places; Notification of Pending Nominations

Nominations for the following properties being considered for listing in the National Register were received by the National Park Service before May 26, 2000. Pursuant to § 60.13 of 36 CFR part 60 written comments concerning the significance of these properties under the National Register criteria for evaluation may be forwarded to the National Register, National Park Service, 1849 C St. NW., NC400, Washington, DC

20240. Written comments should be submitted by June 21, 2000.

Carol D. Shull,
Keeper of the National Register.

ALABAMA

Jefferson County

Belview Heights Historic District, Roughly along 41st, 42nd, 43rd, 44th and 45th Sts., and M and Martin Aves., Birmingham, 00000713

Lakewood Historic District, Roughly bounded by Lee Ave., 82nd St., Spring St., and 80th St., Birmingham, 00000710

Lawrence County

Ice House, 844 Seminary St., Moulton, 00000712

Tallapoosa County

Alexander City Commercial Historic District, Portions of Broad, Main, Green, Alabama, Jefferson Sts. and Courthouse Sq. Alexander City, 00000711

GEORGIA

Chatham County

Vernonburg Historic District, Dancy Ave., Rockwell Ave. and S. Rockwell Ave., Vernonburg, 00000714

INDIANA

Elkhart County

Beardsley, Dr. Havilah, House, 102 W. Beardsley Ave., Elkhart, 00000716

St. Joseph County

Wenger, Martin, Farmhouse, 701 E. Pennsylvania, South Bend, 00000715

LOUISIANA

Rapides Parish

Mt. Olivet Episcopal Church and Cemetery, 335 Main St., Pineville, 00000718

St. Tammany Parish

Tchefuncte Site, Address Restricted, Mandeville, 00000717

PENNSYLVANIA

Montgomery County

Hunsberger, Isaac, House, 545 W. Ridge Pike, Limerick Twp., 00000719

RHODE ISLAND

Newport County

Sakonnet River Bridge, RI 24, Portsmouth, 00000720

SOUTH DAKOTA

Brookings County

Volga Auditorium (Federal Relief Construction in South Dakota MPS), 212 Kasan Ave., Volga, 00000723

Codington County

Watertown Stadium (Federal Relief Construction in South Dakota MPS), 1600 W Kemp Ave., Watertown, 00000721

Jerauld County

Alpena Bathhouse and Swimming Pool (Federal Relief Construction in South

Dakota MPS), Jct. of Fifth and Main, Alpena, 00000727

Meade County

Municipal Building—City Hall (Federal Relief Construction in South Dakota MPS), 206 Main St., Faith, 00000722

TENNESSEE

Giles County

Campbell Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church (Rural African-American Churches in Tennessee MPS), Pulaski, Pulaski, 00000725

Grainger County

Henderson Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church (Rural African-American Churches in Tennessee MPS), Church St., Rutledge, 00000730

Lincoln County

Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church (Rural African-American Churches in Tennessee MPS), 305 W. Maple St., Fayetteville, 00000731

Loudon County

Hackney Chapel AME Zion Church (Rural African-American Churches in Tennessee MPS), Address Restricted, Lenoir City, 00000729

McMinn County

Beth Salem Presbyterian Church (Rural African-American Churches in Tennessee MPS), TN 30 at Watson Rd., Athens, 00000728

UTAH

Washington County

Jepson, James, Jr., House, 15 East Jepson, Virgin, 00000732

WISCONSIN

Columbia County

Lodi Street-Prairie Street Historic District, Roughly Prairie St. from Second St. to Mill St., Lodi, 00000735

Kenosha County

Library Park, 711 59th Place, Kenosha, 00000733

Wood County

West Park Street Historic District, 300–417 West Park St., Marshfield, 00000734

A request for removal for procedural error has been made for the following resource:

IOWA

Jefferson County

Commercial Block (Louden Machinery Company, Fairfield Iowa MPS), 106,108,110 N, Main St. Fairfield, 99000120

[FR Doc. 00–14210 Filed 6–5–00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310–70–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Reclamation

Flaming Gorge Dam, Colorado River Storage Project, Utah

AGENCY: Bureau of Reclamation, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare a draft environmental impact statement and announcement of public scoping meetings.

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation), the federal agency with administrative and regulatory authority over Flaming Gorge Dam, intends to prepare a draft environmental impact statement (EIS) pursuant to section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), as amended, 42 United States Code (U.S.C.) 4332. The EIS will describe the effects of operating Flaming Gorge Dam to achieve the flows recommended by the Recovery Implementation Program for Endangered Fish Species in the Upper Colorado River Basin (Recovery Program), and comply with section 7 of the Endangered Species Act. The purpose of the proposed action is to protect and assist in the recovery of the populations and designated critical habitat of the four endangered fishes [razorback sucker (*Xyrauchen texanus*), Colorado pikeminnow (*Ptychocheilus lucius*), humpback chub (*Gila cypha*), and bonytail (*Gila elegans*)] that are found in the Green and Colorado River Basins, so that along with other activities in the Recovery Implementation Program Recovery Action Plan (Recovery Action Plan), the fish no longer require protection under the Endangered Species Act, while continuing the other authorized purposes of the Flaming Gorge Unit of the Colorado River Storage Project.

DATES AND ADDRESSES: Public scoping meetings will be held in mid-July in Salt Lake City, Vernal, and Fort Duchesne, Utah; Grand Junction, Colorado; and Rock Springs, Wyoming, to solicit public input regarding relevant environmental issues that should be addressed in the EIS. The schedule of scoping meetings is as follows:

- July 11, 2000, 6–9 p.m., Wyndham Hotel, 215 West South Temple, Salt Lake City, Utah.
- July 12, 2000, 6–9 p.m., Rock Springs Holiday Inn, 1675 Sunset Drive (I–80 Exit 102), Rock Springs, Wyoming.
- July 13, 2000, 6–9 p.m., Adam's Mark Hotel, 743 Horizon Drive (I–70 Exit 31), Grand Junction, Colorado.
- July 18, 2000, 6–9 p.m., Western Park Convention Center, 300 East 200 South, Vernal, Utah.