

**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, 3310 El Camino Ave., Suite 130, Sacramento, California 95821-6340 (phone: 916/979-2710); U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 2493 Portola Road, Suite B, Ventura, California 93003. Requests for copies of the draft recovery plan and written comments and materials regarding this plan should be addressed to Diane Noda, Field Supervisor, at the above Ventura address.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Tim Thomas, Botanist, at the above Ventura address (phone: 805/644-1766).

#### 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 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. 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.

These species are listed as endangered except for the threatened *Chorizanthe*

*pungens* var. *pungens*. *Chorizanthe howellii* is known from 3 populations with 23,700 individuals; *Chorizanthe pungens* var. *pungens* is known from 7 populations with 14 million individuals; *Chorizanthe valida*, one population with 30,000 individuals; *Erysimum menziesii* (three subspecies), 16 populations with 33,300 individuals; *Gilia tenuiflora* ssp. *arenaria*, 15 populations with 110,400 individuals; *Layia carnosa*, 19 populations with 300,000 individuals; *Lupinus tidestromii*, 7 populations with 433 individuals; and the Myrtle's Silverspot butterfly, 3 populations with 10,000 individuals. The plants are restricted to the foredunes and dune scrub vegetation and adjacent sandy habitats occupied by coastal scrub or coastal prairie of northern and central coastal California. The butterfly occurs in the coastal grasslands and scrub, with the larval host plant (a violet) in the immediate vicinity of Point Reyes, Marin County. All of these species are threatened by competition from non-native plants, loss of habitat from commercial and residential development, and habitat disturbance from recreation and grazing.

The objective of this plan is to conserve the seven plants and the butterfly so that protection by the Act is no longer necessary. The plant species will be recovered by restoring and protecting dune habitats on which they depend. Assuring long-term protection of public and privately-owned habitat is essential. Habitat conservation planning, as provided for listed animals by the Endangered Species Act will be helpful. Once land is protected, the primary means to accomplish recovery is by controlling non-native invasive plant species. Long-term commitment of resources by public agencies to maintain weed control and other management measures will be essential. Artificial creation of new populations is recommended only as a last resort.

The recovery strategy for the Myrtle's silverspot butterfly is to protect, manage and secure the three known population sites. Monitoring will be required for at least 10 consecutive years to determine if butterfly populations (numbers) are relatively stable and the sites adequately protected, so the Myrtle's silverspot may be considered for de-listing. Some new populations may be established in areas from which the species has been extirpated, if suitable sites are found.

##### 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. 97-25844 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 Shasta Crayfish (*Pacifastacus fortis*) 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 the draft Recovery Plan for the Shasta Crayfish (*Pacifastacus fortis*). This distribution of this crayfish is limited to the Pit River drainage in Shasta County, California. This taxa was listed as an endangered species by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on September 30, 1988 (53 FR 38460).

**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 Field Supervisor at the following address: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 3310 El Camino Ave., Suite 130, Sacramento, California 95821 (phone: 916/979-2710). Comments and material received are available for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the above address.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ann Chrisney, Fish and Wildlife Biologist, or Karen Miller, Recovery Coordinator, at the above Sacramento address.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Background

The distribution of the Shasta crayfish is limited to the midsections of the Pit River drainage, primarily the Fall River and Hat Creek subdrainages in Shasta County, California. Overall, Shasta crayfish populations have low abundance and fragmented distribution with migration and genetic exchange between populations limited by hydroelectric development and habitat loss. The limits of its geographic distribution appear to have changed little over time. Currently, there are

seven populations of Shasta crayfish ranging in size from approximately fewer than 50 to 5,000.

Shasta crayfish primarily live in cool, clear, spring-fed headwaters that are characterized by clean volcanic cobbles and boulders on top of sand or gravel. The volcanic cobble and boulders are essential habitat components because they provide protective cover for the crayfish. The main threats to Shasta crayfish include: major land reclamation, water diversion projects, and the introduction of nonnative species of crayfish and fishes.

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.

This plan provides for the recovery of the Shasta crayfish (*Pacifastacus fortis*) so that protection by the Act is no longer necessary. Protection and management of the species' habitat are the primary goals of the recovery effort.

#### Public Comments Solicited

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.

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Fish and Wildlife Service

#### Notice of Availability of a Draft Recovery Plan for Upland Species of the San Joaquin Valley, CA, for Review and Comment

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

**ACTION:** Notice of document availability.

**SUMMARY:** The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announces the availability for public review of the Draft Recovery Plan for Upland Species of the San Joaquin Valley, California. This recovery plan includes 34 species, of which 11 species are federally listed as endangered or threatened. The draft plan includes recovery criteria and measures for the plants—California jewelflower (*Caulanthus californicus*), palmate-bracted bird's-beak (*Cordylanthus palmatus*), Kern mallow (*Eremalche kernensis*), Hoover's woolly-star (*Eriastrum hooveri*), San Joaquin woolly-threads (*Lembertia congdonii*), Bakersfield cactus (*Opuntia basilaris* var. *treleasei*); and the animals—giant kangaroo rat (*Dipodomys ingens*), Fresno kangaroo rat (*Dipodomys nitratoideus exilis*), Tipton kangaroo rat (*Dipodomys nitratoideus nitratoideus*), blunt-nosed leopard lizard (*Gambelia sila*), and San Joaquin kit fox (*Vulpes macrotis mutica*). Long-term conservation of three candidate species, the Buena Vista Lake shrew (*Sorex ornatus relictus*), the riparian brush rabbit (*Sylvilagus bachmani riparius*), and riparian woodrat (*Neotoma fuscipes riparia*); and an additional 20 species of plants and animals of concern to the Service are addressed in the draft recovery plan.

**DATES:** Comments on the draft recovery plan received by January 28, 1998 will be considered by the Service.

**ADDRESSES:** Persons wishing to review the draft recovery plan may obtain copies by contacting: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Office, 3310 El Camino Avenue, Suite 130, Sacramento, California (telephone 916-979-2725).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Karen Miller, Fish and Wildlife Biologist, at the above Sacramento 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 downlisting or delisting listed species, and estimate time and cost for implementing 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 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. Appropriate Federal or other entities will take these comments into account during the course of implementing recovery actions. Individualized responses to comments will not be provided.

The 34 species of plants and animals covered in the draft recovery plan are restricted primarily to the San Joaquin Valley of California. The majority of the species occur in arid grasslands and scrublands of the San Joaquin Valley and adjacent foothills and valleys. The riparian woodrat and riparian brush rabbit inhabit forested river corridors of the eastern San Joaquin Valley. Conversion of habitat to agricultural, industrial, and urban uses has eliminated the listed, candidate, and species of concern from the majority of their historic ranges. The remaining natural communities are highly fragmented, and many are marginal habitats in which these species may not persist during catastrophic events, such as fire or drought.

The objectives of this recovery plan are two-fold: (1) to delist the plants—California jewelflower, palmate-bracted bird's-beak, Kern mallow, Hoover's woolly-star, San Joaquin woolly-threads, Bakersfield cactus; and the animals—giant kangaroo rat, Fresno kangaroo rat, Tipton kangaroo rat, blunt-nosed leopard lizard, and San Joaquin kit fox by protecting, enhancing, restoring, and