

that threshold to current dollars. The Consumer Price Index is also the measure used to adjust grants annually under the Individual and Family Grant Program (section 411 of the Stafford Act) and the small projects under the Public Assistance Program (section 422 of the Stafford Act.) Under this proposed rule the threshold would be \$100 per capita, and would be adjusted annually for inflation. Since this is such a large increase in the threshold, the adjustment would be made over a two-year period. In FY 1998 the threshold would be increased by \$16 dollars to \$80 per capita statewide. Beginning October 1, 1998, the threshold would be increased to \$100 per capita statewide, with an adjustment made for inflation thereafter.

National Environmental Policy Act

This proposed rule is categorically excluded from the requirements of 44 CFR part 10. No environmental assessment has been prepared.

Executive Order 12866, Regulatory Planning and Review

This proposed rule is not a significant regulatory action within the meaning of section 2(f) of E.O. 12866 of September 30, 1993, 58 FR 51735, but attempts to adhere to the regulatory principles set forth in E.O. 12866. The rule has not been reviewed by the Office of Management and Budget under E.O. 12866.

Paperwork Reduction Act

This proposed rule does not contain a collection of information and therefore is not subject to the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

Executive Order 12612, Federalism

This proposed rule involves no policies that have federalism implications under E.O. 12612, Federalism, dated October 16, 1987.

Executive Order 12778, Civil Justice Reform

This proposed rule meets the applicable standards of section 2(b)(2) of E.O. 12778.

List of subjects in 44 CFR Part 206:

Administrative practice and procedure, Disaster assistance, Intergovernmental relations, Reporting and record keeping requirements.

Accordingly, 44 CFR Part 206 is proposed to be amended as follows:

PART 206 SUBPART B—THE DECLARATION PROCESS

1. The authority citation for part 206 continues to read as follows:

Authority: The Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. 5121 *et seq.*; Reorganization Plan No. 3 of 1978, 43 FR 41943, 3 CFR, 1978 Comp., p. 329; E.O. 12127, 44 FR 19367, 3 CFR, 1979 Comp., p. 376; E.O. 12148, 44 FR 43239, 3 CFR, 1979 Comp., p. 412; and E.O. 12673, 54 FR 12571, 3 CFR, 1989 Comp., p. 214.

2. Section 206.47 is added to read as follows.

§ 206.47 Cost-share adjustments.

(a) In accordance with the supplemental nature of assistance under the Stafford Act, and to demonstrate the fiscal responsibility of both State and Federal governments, a measure of non-Federal cost-sharing will always be retained. The standard 75 percent Federal and 25 percent non-Federal cost-share ratio will remain in effect for most Presidentially declared major disasters. For extraordinary disasters, the following standard will be used to evaluate whether costs under the Act for assistance to State and local governments should be adjusted. This adjustment applies to permanent restorative work under section 406 of the Stafford Act and to emergency work under sections 403 and 407 of the Stafford Act unless otherwise adjusted.

(b) Beginning in FY 1998 and effective for major disasters declared on or after [the effective date of the final rule] a qualifying threshold of \$80 per capita of State population will be used where individual States are severely impacted by a major disaster. This threshold will be based on actual obligations under the Stafford Act only, and will exclude FEMA administrative costs and the non-Federal cost-share.

(c) Beginning October 1, 1998, a qualifying threshold of \$100 per capita of State population (as adjusted for inflation), will be used where individual States are severely impacted by a major disaster. Thereafter, this threshold will be adjusted annually for inflation using the Consumer Price Index for all Urban Consumers published by the Department of Labor. This threshold will be based on actual obligations under the Stafford Act only and will exclude FEMA administrative costs and the non-Federal cost-share.

(d) Where future cost-share adjustments are authorized, the Federal share of assistance to State and local governments for impacts to public and eligible private-nonprofit facilities may be increased above 75 percent but may not be greater than 90 percent of the total eligible cost. One hundred percent Federal funding may be provided for direct Federal assistance emergency work, or for emergency work under

sections 403 and 407, as conditions warrant.

Dated: January 13, 1998.

James L. Witt,

Director.

[FR Doc. 98-5708 Filed 3-4-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

50 CFR Part 17

RIN 1018-AE52

Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Notice of Public Hearing and Reopening of Comment Period on Proposed Threatened Status for Howell's Spectacular Thelypody

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Proposed rule; notice of public hearing and reopening of comment period.

SUMMARY: The Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), pursuant to the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act), provides notice of a public hearing on the proposed threatened status for *Thelypodium howellii* ssp. *spectabilis* (Howell's spectacular thelypody). In addition, the Service has reopened the comment period to accommodate a public hearing that was requested by the Oregon Cattlemen's Association. All parties are invited to submit comments on this proposal.

DATES: The comment period now closes on April 20, 1998. Any comments received by the closing date will be considered in the final decision on this proposal. The public hearing will be held on April 9, 1998, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The public hearing will be held at the Geiser Grand Hotel, 1996 Main Street, Baker City, Oregon. Comments and materials concerning this proposal should be sent to the Supervisor, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Snake River Basin Office, 1387 S. Vinnell Way, Room 368, Boise, Idaho 83709. Comments and materials received will be available for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the above address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Robert Ruesink, Supervisor, at the above address (see ADDRESSES section) or (208) 378-5243.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Thelypodium howellii ssp. *spectabilis* is known from 11 sites in Baker and Union counties, Oregon. This taxon is threatened by a variety of factors including habitat destruction and fragmentation from agricultural and urban development, grazing by domestic livestock, competition from non-native vegetation, and alterations of wetland hydrology.

Comments from the public regarding the accuracy of this proposed rule are sought, especially regarding:

(1) Biological, commercial trade, or other relevant data concerning any threat (or lack thereof) to the species listed above;

(2) The location of any additional populations of the species and the reasons why any habitat should or should not be determined to be critical habitat as provided by section 4 of the Act;

(3) Additional information concerning the range, distribution, and population sizes of the species; and

(4) Current or planned activities in the subject area and their possible impacts on the species.

On January 13, 1998, the Service published a rule proposing threatened status for *Thelypodium howellii* ssp. *spectabilis* in the **Federal Register** (63 FR 1948). The original comment period was to close on March 16, 1998. Section 4(b)(5)(E) of the Act (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) requires that a public hearing be held if it is requested within 45 days of the publication of the proposed rule. A public hearing request from Mr. Rod Dowse of the Oregon Cattlemen's Association in Portland, Oregon, was received within the allotted time period. The Service has scheduled a public hearing to be held on April 9, 1998, at the Geiser Grand Hotel in Baker City, Oregon.

Parties wishing to make statements for the record should bring a copy of their statements to the hearing. Oral

statements may be limited in length, if the number of parties present at the hearing necessitates such a limitation. There are no limits to the length of written comments or materials presented at the hearing or mailed to the Service. Written comments carry the same weight as oral comments. The comment period now closes on April 20, 1998. Written comments should be submitted to the Service office listed in the **ADDRESSES** section.

Author: The primary author of this notice is Edna Rey-Vizgirdas (see **ADDRESSES** section).

Authority

The authority for this action is the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.).

Dated: February 26, 1998.

David J. Wesley,

Acting Regional Director, Region 1, Portland, Oregon.

[FR Doc. 98-5666 Filed 3-4-98; 8:45 am]

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