

overly regulatory and not based on the biological requirements of the animals. Other commenters indicated that we had favored the commercial reptile and amphibian industry in our proposal and had not proposed sufficiently stringent standards to ensure humane and healthful transport conditions for these animals. We are continuing to evaluate the comments we received to determine their applicability to our rulemaking process, and whether they could apply to our anticipated discussion with IATA on amending their regulations. Once the IATA revision process is complete, we will determine whether it is applicable to our rulemaking efforts in this area and whether another proposed rule is warranted.

Author: The author of this notice is Bruce Weissgold (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section).

Authority: The authority for this action is the Lacey Act, as amended (18 U.S.C. 42(c)).

Dated: August 20, 1998.

Donald Barry,

Assistant Secretary, Fish and Wildlife and Parks.

[FR Doc. 98-22889 Filed 8-21-98; 3:19 pm]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

50 CFR Part 17

RIN 1018-AF03

Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Notice of Additional Public Hearing on the Proposal To List the Contiguous United States Distinct Population Segment of the Canada Lynx as a Threatened Species; and the Captive Population of Canada Lynx Within the Coterminous United States (lower 48 States) as Threatened Due to Similarity of Appearance, With a Special Rule

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Proposed rule; notice of additional public hearing.

SUMMARY: The Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), pursuant to the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act), provides notice of one additional public hearing on the proposed threatened status of the contiguous United States population of the Canada lynx.

DATES: The comment period closes on September 30, 1998. There will be eleven public hearings, including one additional public hearing in Idaho on September 17, 1998 from 2 p.m. until 4 p.m. and from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m.

ADDRESSES: Written comments and materials concerning this proposal may be submitted at the hearings or sent directly to Field Supervisor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Montana Field Office, 100 N. Park Ave., Suite 320, Helena, Montana 59601. Comments and materials received will be available for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the above address.

The additional hearing will be held at the Rodeway Inn, 1115 North Custis Rd., Boise, ID.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kemper McMaster at 406/449-5225; or by fax at 406/449-5339 (see **ADDRESSES** section).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Public hearings on this proposal will be held in the following locations:

Western States

Colorado

Wednesday, July 22, 1998 from 7 p.m. until 9 p.m. at the Ramada Inn, 124 W. 6th St., Glenwood Springs, Colorado. This public hearing will be preceded by an informational open house from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Tuesday, July 28, 1998, from 7 p.m. until 9 p.m. at the Sheraton Denver West, 360 Union Boulevard, Lakewood, Colorado. This public hearing will be preceded by an informational open house from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Idaho

Thursday, September 10, 1998, from 2 p.m. until 4 p.m. and from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. at the Coeur d'Alene Inn and Conference Center, 414 West Appleway Avenue, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho.

Thursday, September 17, 1998, from 2 p.m. until 4 p.m. and from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. at the Rodeway Inn, 1115 North Curtis Road, Boise, Idaho.

Montana

Tuesday, July 21, 1998, from 2 p.m. until 4 p.m. and from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. at the Colonial Inn Best Western, 2301 Colonial Drive, Helena, Montana.

Wednesday, July 22, 1998, from 2 p.m. until 4 p.m. and from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. at Cavanaugh's at Kalispell Center, 20 North Main, Kalispell, Montana.

Oregon

Tuesday September 15, 1998, from 2 p.m. until 4 p.m. and from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. at Eastern Oregon University, Hoke University Center, 1410 L Avenue, Rooms 201-203, LaGrande, Oregon.

Washington

Tuesday, September 8, 1998, from 2 p.m. until 4 p.m. and from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. at the Cedars Inn, 1 Appleway, Okanogan, Washington.

Wyoming

Wednesday, August 12, 1998, from 2 p.m. until 4 p.m. and from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. at the Cody Auditorium, Cody Club Room, 1234 Beck Avenue, Cody, Wyoming.

Eastern States

Maine

Tuesday, September 15, 1998 from 7 p.m. until 9 p.m. at the Old Town High School, 240 Stillwater Avenue, Old Town, Maine.

Great Lakes States

Wisconsin

Tuesday, September 15, 1998 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Northern Great Lakes Center on County Road G near Hwy 2, west of Ashland, Wisconsin. This public hearing will be preceded by an informational open house from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Background

On July 8, 1998, the Service proposed to list the contiguous United States population segment of the Canada lynx (*Lynx canadensis*) as threatened, pursuant to the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act) (63 FR 36994). This population segment includes the States of Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Utah, Wyoming, Colorado, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, New York, Pennsylvania and Massachusetts. The contiguous United States population segment of the Canada lynx is threatened by human alteration of forests, low numbers as a result of past overexploitation, expansion of the range of competitors (bobcats (*Felix rufus*) and coyotes (*Canis latrans*)), and elevated levels of human access into lynx habitat. The proposal lists the captive population of Canada lynx within the coterminous United States (lower 48 States) as threatened due to similarity of appearance with a special rule.

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. An additional public hearing was requested by the Governor of Idaho within the allotted time period. The Service has scheduled an additional public hearing in Boise, Idaho (See above Supplemental Information).

Oral and written comments will be accepted and treated equally. Parties wishing to make statements for the record should bring a copy of their statements to the hearings. Oral statements may be limited in length, if the number of parties present at the hearings necessitates such a limitation. There are no limits to the length of written comments or materials presented at the hearings or mailed to the Service. Written comments carry the same weight as oral comments. Legal notices announcing the date, time, and location of the hearings are being published in newspapers concurrently with this **Federal Register** notice.

Comments from all interested parties must be received by September 30, 1998.

Author

The primary author of this notice is Jeri Wood, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1387 S. Vinnell Way, #368, Boise, Idaho 83704.

Authority

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

Dated: August 3, 1998.

Thomas J. Dwyer,

Acting Regional Director, Region 1, Portland, Oregon.

[FR Doc. 98-21120 Filed 8-25-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

50 CFR Part 17

RIN 1018-AF04

Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Proposed Rule To Remove the Peregrine Falcon in North America From the List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) proposes to remove the peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) in North America from the List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife. The Service proposes this action because the available data indicate that this species has recovered following restrictions on organochlorine pesticides in the United States and Canada and following implementation of successful management activities. Currently, a minimum of 1,388

American peregrine falcon pairs are found in Alaska, Canada, and the Western United States, and a minimum of 205 peregrine falcon pairs are found in the Eastern and Midwestern United States. Overall productivity goals in four American peregrine falcon recovery plans were met or exceeded, and most recovery goals for the eastern peregrine falcon population have been met. The proposed action, if finalized, would remove the American peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus anatum*) as an endangered species from the List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and would remove the designation of endangered due to similarity of appearance for any free-flying peregrine falcons within the 48 conterminous States. It would remove all Endangered Species Act protections from all subspecies and populations of North American *Falco peregrinus*. It would not affect protection provided to this species by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES). It would not affect the endangered listing status of the Eurasian peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus peregrinus*) under the Endangered Species Act.

This proposed rule includes a proposed 5-year post-delisting monitoring plan as required for species that are delisted due to recovery. Monitoring will include population trends, productivity, and contaminant exposure. This proposed rule also provides notice that the collection of information from the public expected to be associated with the monitoring has been submitted to the Office of Management and Budget for approval under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

DATES: Comments from all interested parties on the peregrine delisting proposal must be received by November 24, 1998. Public hearing requests must be received by October 13, 1998.

Comments from all interested parties on the collection of information from the public during the 5-year monitoring period will be considered if received on or before October 26, 1998. OMB has up to 60 days to approve or disapprove information collection but may respond after 30 days. Therefore, to ensure maximum consideration, OMB should receive public comments by September 25, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Comments and other information concerning this proposal to remove the peregrine falcon from the endangered species list should be sent to Diane Noda, Field Supervisor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ventura Fish

and Wildlife Office, 2493 Portola Road, Suite B, Ventura, California 93003 (facsimile: (805)644-3958). Comments and materials received will be available for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the above address.

Comments and suggestions on specific information collection requirements should be sent to the Desk Officer for the Interior Department, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Washington, DC 20503. The comments and suggestions should also be directed to Rebecca Mullin, Service Information Collection Clearance Officer, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, MS 224 ARLSQ, 1849 C Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20240.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Robert Mesta at the above Ventura, California, address, or at (805) 644-1766, for further information on the proposed removal of the peregrine falcon from the endangered species list. To request a copy of the information collection request, explanatory information and related forms, contact Rebecca Mullin at (703) 358-2287.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The peregrine falcon is a medium-sized raptor weighing approximately 1000 grams (36 ounces) and having a wing span of 112 centimeters (44 inches). The adult peregrine falcon has a dark gray back and crown, dark bars or streaks on a pale chest and abdomen, and heavy malar (cheek) stripes on the face. Immature falcons are buff-colored in front and have dark brown backs; adults are white or buff in front and bluish-gray on their backs. Peregrines prey almost entirely on other birds, and occasionally on bats, caught in midair.

The peregrine falcon has an almost worldwide distribution, with three subspecies recognized in North America (Brown and Amadon 1968). The Peale's falcon (*F.p. pealei*) is a year-round resident of the northwest Pacific coast from northern Washington through British Columbia to the Aleutian Islands. The Arctic peregrine falcon (*F.p. tundrius*) nests in the tundra of Alaska, Canada, and Greenland and is typically a long-distance migrant, wintering as far south as South America. The American peregrine falcon occurs throughout much of North America from the subarctic boreal forests of Alaska and Canada south to Mexico. The American peregrine falcon nests from central Alaska, central Yukon Territory, and northern Alberta and Saskatchewan, east to the Maritimes and