

individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, available for public inspection in their entirety.

Authority

The authority for this action is section 4(f) of the Endangered Species Act, 16 U.S.C. 1533 (f).

Dated: February 19, 2004.

J. Mitch King,

*Deputy Regional Director, Southeast Region,
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.*

[FR Doc. 04-7349 Filed 3-31-04; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Draft Karst Survey Guidance and Scientific Permit Requirements for Conducting Presence/Absence Surveys for Endangered Karst Invertebrates in Central Texas

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) is making available for public comment its draft survey guidance for karst species and section 10(a)(1)(A) scientific permit requirements for conducting presence/absence surveys for endangered karst invertebrates in central Texas.

This document outlines methods to be used, information to be included in final reports, and minimum qualifications for personnel conducting presence/absence surveys for federally-listed endangered, terrestrial, karst invertebrate species (herein referred to as "karst invertebrates") in Travis, Williamson, and Bexar counties, Texas, under a section 10(a)(1)(A) permit pursuant to the Endangered Species Act (Act) of 1973, as amended. This document also outlines the Service's recommendations for detecting karst features that may contain suitable habitat for endangered karst invertebrates, as a first step in determining presence/absence. The objective of this document is to identify survey methods that will produce sound scientific information upon which to base decisions and actions for the conservation of these endangered species. Using consistent survey methodology will also allow for greater comparison and analysis of results, and thereby increase our understanding of these species and their habitat requirements.

DATES: To ensure consideration, written comments must be received on or before June 1, 2004.

ADDRESSES: Written comments and information should be submitted to Supervisor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Austin Ecological Services Field Office, 10711 Burnet Road, Suite 200, Austin, Texas 78758; facsimile (512) 490-0974.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Supervisor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Austin Ecological Services Field Office, 10711 Burnet Road, Suite 200, Austin, Texas 78758 or (512) 490-0057.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Sixteen endangered karst invertebrates are known to occur in Travis, Williamson, and Bexar counties, Texas. These karst invertebrates are only capable of surviving in caves or karstic rock. Karst ecosystems receive nutrients from the surface community in the form of leaf litter and other organic debris that are washed in or fall into the cave, from tree and other vascular plant roots, and/or through the feces, eggs, or dead bodies of animals. In addition to providing nutrients to the karst ecosystem, the plant community also filters contaminants and buffers against changes in temperature and humidity. The major threats to karst invertebrates include the loss of habitat due to urbanization, contamination, predation by and competition with non-native fire ants, and vandalism.

On February 27, 2003 we provided a notice (68 FR 9094-9095) of our intention to do the following:

(1) With respect to survey guidance for use in determining the presence of karst features that may contain potential habitat for endangered karst invertebrates in central Texas, we committed to work with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) and other partners to update, as needed, the existing TCEQ guidance on karst feature surveys.

(2) With respect to survey guidance for endangered karst invertebrates, we committed to request a panel of experts to review all new information regarding how to survey for karst invertebrates. We also committed to using the panel's recommendations to modify the section 10(a)(1)(A) permitting requirements and to develop karst invertebrate survey guidance.

This guidance was initially intended to be made available for public review and comment through a Notice of Availability to be published in the **Federal Register** by December 30, 2003.

On January 16, 2004, we provided notice (69 FR 2617) of our intention to publish this draft guidance for public review by March 31, 2004.

We submitted both the draft karst feature and karst invertebrate survey guidance documents (May 23, 2002, versions) to a panel of 48 individuals with expertise in karst geology and/or biology and/or experience conducting karst feature and karst invertebrate surveys for review and comment. In addition to providing written comments, members of the panel met with us on September 8, 2003, and provided their individual feedback on both survey guidance documents and the suitability of TCEQ's guidance for surveying for karst features that may contain suitable habitat for endangered karst invertebrates.

Based on individual panel member's comments and recommendations, the Service has merged the two draft karst survey guidance documents into a single document and intends to use this document to modify the section 10(a)(1)(A) permitting requirements for conducting presence/absence surveys for endangered karst invertebrates in central Texas. This revised document, USFWS Section 10(a)(1)(A) Scientific Permit Requirements for Conducting Presence/Absence Surveys for Endangered Karst Invertebrates in Central Texas (February 18, 2004), outlines (1) Methods to be used to conduct surveys for endangered karst invertebrates, (2) information to be included in final reports, and (3) the minimum qualifications for personnel conducting presence/absence surveys for endangered karst invertebrates under a section 10(a)(1)(A) permit. Since one of the first steps in determining presence/absence of endangered karst invertebrates is to locate karst features that may have suitable habitat, this document also outlines the Service's recommendations for conducting surveys for karst features that may contain suitable habitat for endangered karst invertebrates. TCEQ's Instructions to Geologists for Geologic Assessments (GA) as revised May 1, 2002, are recommended to conduct initial karst feature surveys.

This revised document was submitted to panel members for additional review and comment and panel member's comments and recommendations were incorporated into the current version of the document, which is available for public comment.

Authority: We provide this notice pursuant to section 10(c) of the Endangered Species Act and pursuant to implementing

regulations for the National Environmental Policy Act (40 CFR 1506.6).

Bryan Arroyo,

Acting Regional Director, Southwest Region, Albuquerque, New Mexico.

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INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION

[Investigation No. 731-TA-208 (Review)]

Barbed Wire and Barbless Wire Strand From Argentina

AGENCY: International Trade Commission.

ACTION: Institution of a five-year review concerning the antidumping duty order on barbed wire and barbless wire strand from Argentina.

SUMMARY: The Commission hereby gives notice that it has instituted a review pursuant to section 751(c) of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1675(c)) (the Act) to determine whether revocation of the antidumping duty order on barbed wire and barbless wire strand from Argentina would be likely to lead to continuation or recurrence of material injury. Pursuant to section 751(c)(2) of the Act, interested parties are requested to respond to this notice by submitting the information specified below to the Commission;¹ to be assured of consideration, the deadline for responses is May 21, 2004. Comments on the adequacy of responses may be filed with the Commission by June 14, 2004. For further information concerning the conduct of this review and rules of general application, consult the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, part 201, subparts A through E (19 CFR part 201), and part 207, subparts A, D, E, and F (19 CFR part 207).

EFFECTIVE DATE: April 1, 2004.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Mary Messer (202) 205-3193, Office of Investigations, U.S. International Trade Commission, 500 E Street SW., Washington, DC 20436. Hearing-impaired persons can obtain information on this matter by contacting the Commission's TDD terminal on

(202) 205-1810. Persons with mobility impairments who will need special assistance in gaining access to the Commission should contact the Office of the Secretary at (202) 205-2000. General information concerning the Commission may also be obtained by accessing its Internet server (<http://www.usitc.gov>). The public record for this review may be viewed on the Commission's electronic docket (EDIS) at <http://edis.usitc.gov>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background.—On November 13, 1985, the Department of Commerce issued an antidumping duty order on imports of barbed wire and barbless wire strand from Argentina (50 FR 46808). Following five-year reviews by Commerce and the Commission, effective May 12, 1999, Commerce issued a continuation of the antidumping duty order on imports of barbed wire and barbless fencing wire from Argentina (64 FR 42653). The Commission is now conducting a second review to determine whether revocation of the order would be likely to lead to continuation or recurrence of material injury to the domestic industry within a reasonably foreseeable time. It will assess the adequacy of interested party responses to this notice of institution to determine whether to conduct a full review or an expedited review. The Commission's determination in any expedited review will be based on the facts available, which may include information provided in response to this notice.

Definitions.—The following definitions apply to this review:

(1) *Subject Merchandise* is the class or kind of merchandise that is within the scope of the five-year review, as defined by the Department of Commerce.

(2) The *Subject Country* in this review is Argentina.

(3) The *Domestic Like Product* is the domestically produced product or products which are like, or in the absence of like, most similar in characteristics and uses with, the Subject Merchandise. In its original determination and in its expedited five-year review determination, the Commission defined the Domestic Like Product as barbed wire and barbless wire strand.

(4) The *Domestic Industry* is the U.S. producers as a whole of the Domestic Like Product, or those producers whose collective output of the Domestic Like Product constitutes a major proportion of the total domestic production of the product. In its original determination and in its expedited five-year review determination, the Commission defined

the Domestic Industry as producers of barbed wire and barbless wire strand.

(5) An *Importer* is any person or firm engaged, either directly or through a parent company or subsidiary, in importing the Subject Merchandise into the United States from a foreign manufacturer or through its selling agent.

Participation in the review and public service list.—Persons, including industrial users of the Subject Merchandise and, if the merchandise is sold at the retail level, representative consumer organizations, wishing to participate in the review as parties must file an entry of appearance with the Secretary to the Commission, as provided in section 201.11(b)(4) of the Commission's rules, no later than 21 days after publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**. The Secretary will maintain a public service list containing the names and addresses of all persons, or their representatives, who are parties to the review.

Former Commission employees who are seeking to appear in Commission five-year reviews are reminded that they are required, pursuant to 19 CFR 201.15, to seek Commission approval if the matter in which they are seeking to appear was pending in any manner or form during their Commission employment. The Commission is seeking guidance as to whether a second transition five-year review is the "same particular matter" as the underlying original investigation for purposes of 19 CFR 201.15 and 18 U.S.C. 207, the post employment statute for Federal employees. Former employees may seek informal advice from Commission ethics officials with respect to this and the related issue of whether the employee's participation was "personal and substantial." However, any informal consultation will not relieve former employees of the obligation to seek approval to appear from the Commission under its rule 201.15. For ethics advice, contact Carol McCue Verratti, Deputy Agency Ethics Official, at (202) 205-3088.

Limited disclosure of business proprietary information (BPI) under an administrative protective order (APO) and APO service list.—Pursuant to section 207.7(a) of the Commission's rules, the Secretary will make BPI submitted in this review available to authorized applicants under the APO issued in the review, provided that the application is made no later than 21 days after publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**. Authorized applicants must represent interested parties, as defined in 19 U.S.C. 1677(9), who are parties to the review. A

¹ No response to this request for information is required if a currently valid Office of Management and Budget (OMB) number is not displayed; the OMB number is 3117-0016/USITC No. 04-5-085, expiration date June 30, 2005. Public reporting burden for the request is estimated to average 7 hours per response. Please send comments regarding the accuracy of this burden estimate to the Office of Investigations, U.S. International Trade Commission, 500 E Street, SW., Washington, DC 20436.