

**FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS
COMMISSION**
47 CFR Part 73

[DA 03-1474; MM Docket No. 01-169; RM-10145]

Radio Broadcasting Services; Danville & Nonesuch, KY

AGENCY: Federal Communications Commission.

ACTION: Proposed rule; denial.

SUMMARY: Action in this document denies a petition for rule making filed by Clear Channel Broadcasting Licenses, Inc., requesting the reallocation of Channel 296A from Danville, Kentucky to Nonesuch, Kentucky, and modification of the license for Station WHIR-FM to specify operation on Channel 296A at Nonesuch. See 66 FR 41489, August 8, 2001. Based on the information provided by Clear Channel Broadcasting Licenses, Inc., we believe it has failed to establish that Nonesuch qualifies as a community for allotment purposes and therefore it would not serve the public interest to reallocate Channel 296A from Danville to Nonesuch, Kentucky. With this action, this proceeding is terminated.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kathleen Scheuerle, Media Bureau, (202) 418-2180.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This is a synopsis of the Commission's Report and Order, MM Docket No. 01-169, adopted April 30, 2003, and released May 5, 2003. The full text of this Commission decision is available for inspection and copying during normal business hours in the FCC's Reference Information Center at Portals II, 44512th Street, SW., Room CY-A257, Washington, DC 20554. The document may also be purchased from the Commission's duplicating contractor, Qualex International, Portals II, 445 12th Street, SW., Room CY-B402, Washington, DC 20554, telephone: 202 863-2893, facsimile: 202 863-2898, or via e-mail qualexint@aol.com.

Federal Communications Commission.

John A. Karousos,

Assistant Chief, Audio Division, Media Bureau.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Fish and Wildlife Service
50 CFR Part 17

RIN 1018-AH53

Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Delisting the Plant *Frankenia johnstonii* (Johnston's frankenia) and Notice of Petition Finding

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), announce a proposal to remove the plant *Frankenia johnstonii* (Johnston's frankenia) from the List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act). This species is endemic to three counties in south Texas and an adjacent area in northeastern Mexico. Due to an expansion of our knowledge of the species' known range, the number of newly discovered populations, some with large numbers of individual plants, increased knowledge of the life history requirements of this species, and clarification of the degree of threats to its continued existence, we have determined that Johnston's frankenia is not in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range now or within the foreseeable future. This proposed rule also constitutes our 90-day and 12-month finding for the petition to delist *Frankenia johnstonii*.

DATES: We will consider comments on this proposal if they are received by August 20, 2003. Public hearing requests must be received by July 7, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Written comments and materials concerning this proposal should be sent to: Field Supervisor, Ecological Services Field Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, c/o TAMU-CC, Campus Box 338, 6300 Ocean Drive, Corpus Christi, Texas 78412. The proposal, supporting data, and comments are available for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the above address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Robyn Cobb, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, at the above address, or telephone 361-994-9005 or e-mail to robyn_cobb@fws.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Frankenia johnstonii (Correll) was first collected in 1966 in Zapata County, Texas, by Dr. D. S. Correll who later named the species in honor of Dr. M. C. Johnston (Correll 1966). *Frankenia johnstonii* is a low, somewhat sprawling, perennial shrub, in the Frankeniaceae Family. Mature plants are approximately 30 centimeters (cm) (12 inches (in)) in height, 30 to 60 cm (12 to 24 in) wide, and rounded or sphere-shaped in appearance. This spineless subshrub has a woody, trunk-like stem which gives rise to several-to-many ascending or recurved (bent or curved downward or backward) herbaceous stems. The entire plant may be grayish-green or bluish-green in color most of the year, turning crimson red in late fall when it is easily detected among its surrounding deciduous neighbors. This color change can also be brought on by severe drought conditions (Janssen and Williamson 1994). The gray-green leaf surfaces are haired, with salt crystals frequently visible on the underside of the leaves. Leaf margins are somewhat rolled or turned under. Flowers are small, with five slightly fringed or toothed white petals and a distinct yellow center. Flowering occurs from April to November, especially when stimulated by rainfall events (Janssen and Williamson 1994).

Frankenia johnstonii generally grows on open or sparsely vegetated, rocky, gypseous hillsides or saline flats. In Texas, this species is endemic to Webb, Zapata and Starr Counties, where it occurs within the mesquite-blackbrush community encompassed in the South Texas Plains vegetation zone as described by McMahan (*et al.* 1984). *Frankenia johnstonii* populations have a clumped distribution, occurring in openings of the Tamaulipan thornscrub where the plant thrives in a high light intensity setting. Populations of this species appear to be restricted to pockets of hyper-saline soil, analysis of which shows salinity and sodium content that is approximately 10 times greater than that found in soils occurring outside the populations (Janssen and Williamson 1994). The population in Mexico occurs in the transition zone between the Tamaulipan Scrub and the Chihuahuan Desert (Whalen 1980).

Frankenia johnstonii was listed August 7, 1984 (49 FR 31418), as an endangered species under the Act. Critical habitat was never designated for this species. The Johnston's Frankenia (*Frankenia johnstonii*) Recovery Plan, completed in 1988, did not quantify criteria for down-listing or delisting due