

Regional and field office endangered species staffs have provided the following news:

Region 2

Sonoran Tiger Salamander (*Ambystoma tigrinum stebbinsi*) A recovery plan for this endangered salamander was completed and made available to the public in January 2003. The Sonoran tiger salamander, which is endemic to the San Rafael Valley of southeastern Arizona, is threatened by introduced exotic predators (such as nonnative bullfrogs) and other subspecies of tiger salamander, a virulent disease caused by an iridovirus, small population size, limited distribution, and other factors. The key recovery actions recommended in the plan include maintaining and enhancing habitat, control of exotic predators, reducing disease transmission, limiting the collection of salamanders, public education, and continued coordination among interested and affected parties.

The recovery plan was developed in partnership with the Arizona Game and Fish Department and leading experts on the salamander, in close coordination with a Participation Team composed of ranchers and other residents in the areas where the salamander occurs, agency biologists and representatives, environmentalists, and other interested or affected parties. The Participation Plan describes ways in which recovery actions should be implemented and coordinated to ensure recovery of the salamander while minimizing economic and social costs. The Sonoran Tiger Salamander Recovery Plan is available at <http://arizonaes.fws.gov>.

Reported by Jim Rorabaugh in the Fish and Wildlife Service's Phoenix, Arizona, Ecological Field Office.

Holy Ghost Ipomopsis (*Ipomopsis sancti-spiritus*) The final recovery plan for the Holy Ghost ipomopsis, an endangered plant known from only one site in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains of north-central New Mexico, became available to the public on February 4, 2003. This plant is a short-lived herbaceous perennial plant in the family Polemoniaceae. It grows to about 2 feet (0.6 meter) in height and has beautiful, showy pink flowers. A single population of an estimated 2,500 plants survives on about 200 acres (80 hectares) along a U.S. Forest Service road. Impacts from road maintenance, recreation, and catastrophic forest fire are immediate concerns for the small population. Much of the ipomopsis's remaining suitable habitat is threatened by the direct and indirect effects of residential development and maintenance projects in the Santa Fe National Forest.

The final recovery plan calls for restoring the Holy Ghost ipomopsis to a secure status through continued federal protection and management, research to understand its biological and ecological needs, and establishment of four more populations in suitable habitat in the upper Pecos River Basin. The final plan was signed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Forest Service, and state of New Mexico, and they are already working together to select the first site for reintroduction. The plan is posted on the Service's southwest regional web site at <http://southwest.fws.gov>.

Reported by Wendy Brown, Endangered Species Recovery Biologist.

Region 5

Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*). The Service's Chesapeake Bay Field Office in Annapolis, Maryland, completed formal consultation with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) for the replacement of the Woodrow Wilson Bridge in accordance with section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA). This federally owned bridge is part of the I-95/495 interstate highway or Capital Beltway linking Maryland and Virginia over the Potomac River. The bridge serves to transport hundreds of thousands of local commuters in the Washington metropolitan area to work each day, and it is an essential transportation corridor for travelers and interstate commerce between Maine and Florida. The Service has determined that land clearing, use of

haul roads, ferrying barges, and construction activities for this \$2.4 billion project will adversely affect a nesting pair of bald eagles within the project action area. The FHWA initiated consultation with the Service in September 1999 and a biological opinion (BO) was rendered in April 2000. The FHWA's implementation of the "reasonable and prudent measures" provided in the BO, in concert with terms and conditions required by the Service after consultation with the Army Corps of Engineers on an interrelated project (National Harbor), allowed for the successful nesting and rearing of 10 young by this eagle pair over four consecutive years. The FHWA also implemented a bald eagle conservation program designed to conserve nesting and foraging habitat for these eagles by conveying 84 acres (34 ha) of shoreline and shallow-open water habitat from the Correctional Corporation of America to the National Park Service for the long term protection of bald eagles.














The FHWA reinitiated consultation with the Service on December 19, 2002, to assess the impacts of the bridge project on bald eagles after new information was obtained pertaining to nest relocation, increased nest productivity, and design plan changes. The Service completed a second and final BO in February 2003.

Karner Blue Butterfly (*Lycaeides melissa samuelis*). The Service's New York Field Office completed formal ESA section 7 consultation with the Federal Aviation Administration regarding the Saratoga County Airport Master Plan Update. The Saratoga County Airport is the site of the largest population of the endangered Karner blue butterfly in New York. The 5-year Master Plan Update includes a variety of projects associated with airport operations and maintenance. Part of the plan involves clearing about 70 acres (28 ha) for obstruction removal, and these cleared areas will be reseeded with native grasses and flowers to create additional habitat for the butterflies. The plan also includes management agreements with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation to avoid and minimize adverse impacts on the butterfly and its habitat.

Reported by Mary Ratnaswamy of the Service's Chesapeake Bay Field Office.

BOX SCORE

Listings and Recovery Plans as of April 14, 2003

GROUP	ENDANGERED		THREATENED		TOTAL LISTINGS	U.S. SPECIES W/ PLANS
	U.S.	FOREIGN	U.S.	FOREIGN		
 MAMMALS	65	251	9	17	342	52
 BIRDS	78	175	14	6	273	77
 REPTILES	14	64	22	15	115	32
 AMPHIBIANS	12	8	9	1	30	14
 FISHES	71	11	44	0	126	96
 SNAILS	21	1	11	0	33	22
 CLAMS	62	2	8	0	72	57
 CRUSTACEANS	18	0	3	0	21	13
 INSECTS	35	4	9	0	48	29
 ARACHNIDS	12	0	0	0	12	5
ANIMAL SUBTOTAL	388	516	129	39	1,072	397
 FLOWERING PLANTS	570	1	144	0	715	572
 CONIFERS	2	0	1	2	5	2
 FERNS AND OTHERS	26	0	2	0	28	28
PLANT SUBTOTAL	598	1	147	2	748	602
GRAND TOTAL	986	517	276	41	1,820*	999

TOTAL U.S. ENDANGERED: 986 (388 animals, 598 plants)

TOTAL U.S. THREATENED: 276 (129 animals, 147 plants)

TOTAL U.S. LISTED: 1,262 (517 animals**, 745 plants)

* Separate populations of a species listed both as Endangered and Threatened are tallied once, for the endangered population only. Those species are the argali, chimpanzee, leopard, Stellar sea lion, gray wolf, piping plover, roseate

tern, green sea turtle, saltwater crocodile, and olive ridley sea turtle. For the purposes of the Endangered Species Act, the term "species" can mean a species, subspecies, or distinct vertebrate population. Several entries also represent entire genera or even families.

** Nine animal species have dual status in the U.S.

ENDANGERED
Species
BULLETIN

*U.S. Department of the Interior
 Fish and Wildlife Service
 Washington, D.C. 20240*

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