

13, 2004, I made the following determination establishing the Great Sand Dunes National Park in Saguache and Alamosa counties in southern Colorado:

Whereas, the Great Sand Dunes National Monument was established for "the preservation of the great sand dunes" on March 17, 1932;

Whereas, the great sand dunes "an ancient landscape sculpted by the relentless forces of wind and water—offer breath-taking beauty, rare plant and animal life, and rich geological and cultural history;

Whereas, Congress, in the Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve Act, authored by Senator Wayne Allard, Senator Ben Nighthorse Campbell, and Representative Scott McInnis of Colorado, inspired by the people of the San Luis Valley, sought to provide long-term protection of the area and ensure opportunities for visitors to enjoy its splendor;

Whereas, Congress authorized the Secretary of the Interior to designate the existing national monument and additional lands as a national park once sufficient land with a sufficient diversity of resources was acquired;

Whereas, the National Park Service now has assumed management for 31,000 acres adjacent to the monument as provided by the Act;

Whereas, the Director of the National Park Service recommends that the Great Sand Dunes National Monument, together with additional lands, be designated a national park;

Therefore, having determined that the United States has acquired sufficient land having a sufficient diversity of resources to warrant designation of the land as a national park, by the authority vested in me under Section 4 of the Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve Act (114 Stat. 2529), and with the approval of President George W. Bush, I do hereby designate the existing Great Sand Dunes National Monument, together with additional lands cited in said Act, as the Great Sand Dunes National Park.

Pursuant to section 5(b) of Public Law 106–530 (16 U.S.C. 410hhh–3(b)), as soon as practicable, a map and legal description of the Great Sand Dunes National Park will be on file and available for public inspection at the address below.

**DATES:** This action is effective upon publication in the **Federal Register**.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Steve Chaney, Superintendent, Great Sand Dunes National Park & Preserve, 11500 Hwy 150, Mosca, Colorado 81146–9798.

Dated: September 16, 2004.

**Gale A. Norton,**

*Secretary of the Interior.*

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**BILLING CODE 4312–CL–P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Fish and Wildlife Service

#### Draft Revised Recovery Plan for the Nēnē or Hawaiian Goose (*Branta sandvicensis*)

**AGENCY:** Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of document availability for review and comment.

**SUMMARY:** The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (we) announces the availability of the Draft Revised Recovery Plan for the Nēnē or Hawaiian Goose (*Branta sandvicensis*) for public review and comment.

**DATES:** Comments on the draft revised recovery plan must be received on or before November 23, 2004.

**ADDRESSES:** Hard copies of the draft revised recovery plan will be available for inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the following location: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Pacific Islands Fish and Wildlife Office, 300 Ala Moana Boulevard, Room 3–122, Box 50088, Honolulu, Hawaii 96850 (telephone: 808–792–9400; facsimile: 808–792–9580). Requests for copies of the draft revised recovery plan and written comments and materials regarding this plan should be addressed to the Field Supervisor at the above Honolulu address. This plan is currently available on the World Wide Web at <http://endangered.fws.gov/recovery/index.html#plans>.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Dr. Ann Marshall, Fish and Wildlife Biologist, or Dr. Eric VanderWerf, Fish and Wildlife Biologist, at the above address and telephone number.

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

##### **Background**

Recovery of endangered or threatened animals and plants is a primary goal of our endangered species program and the Endangered Species Act (Act) (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*). Recovery means improvement of the status of listed species to the point at which listing is no longer appropriate under the criteria set out in section 4(a)(1) of the Act. Recovery plans describe actions considered necessary for the conservation of the species, establish criteria for downlisting or delisting

listed species, and estimate time and cost for implementing the measures needed for recovery.

The Act requires the development of a recovery plan for a listed species unless such a plan would not promote the conservation of the species. Section 4(f) of the Act requires that public notice and an opportunity for public review and comment be provided during recovery plan development. We will consider all information presented during the public comment period on each new or revised recovery plan. Substantive technical comments may result in changes to a recovery plan. Substantive comments regarding recovery plan implementation may not necessarily result in changes to a recovery plan, but will be forwarded to appropriate Federal or other entities so that they can take these comments into account during the course of implementing recovery actions. Individual responses to comments will not be provided.

The nēnē is endemic to the Hawaiian Islands and is listed as endangered by the Federal government and by the State of Hawaii. Currently, there are wild populations on the islands of Hawaii, Maui, and Kauai comprised of approximately 350, 250, and 620 individuals, respectively. In addition, 11 captive-bred nēnē were released on the island of Molokai in December 2001 and an additional 13 nēnē were released on Molokai in 2002 as part of a Safe Harbor Agreement.

Nēnē are currently found at elevations ranging from sea level to almost 2,500 meters (8,000 feet) in a variety of habitats including nonnative grasslands (such as golf courses, pastures, and rural areas); sparsely vegetated high elevation lava flows; cinder deserts; native alpine grasslands and shrublands; open native and non-native alpine shrubland-woodland community interfaces; mid-elevation native and non-native shrubland; and early successional cinderfall. This distribution has been determined largely by the locations of release sites of captive-bred nēnē. Limiting factors affecting nēnē recovery include predation by introduced mammals, insufficient nutritional resources for both breeding females and goslings, limited availability of suitable habitat, human-caused disturbance and mortality, behavioral problems associated with small populations sizes and captive-bred birds, genetic homogeneity and expression of deleterious recessive genes, and possibly avian disease.

Recovery objectives for the nēnē are to restore and maintain self-sustaining populations on the islands of Hawaii,

Maui Nui, and Kauai. Additionally, sufficient suitable habitat must be identified, protected, and managed in perpetuity on each of these islands such that the species no longer requires protection under the Endangered Species Act.

The draft revised recovery plan specifies that nēnē can be considered for downlisting to threatened status when the following criteria have been reached and maintained for a period of 15 years: (1) Self-sustaining populations exist on Hawaii, Maui Nui (Maui, Molokai, Lanai, Kahoolawe), and Kauai; (2) sufficient suitable habitat for nesting, summer flocking, and migration is identified, protected, and managed in perpetuity to sustain the target population levels on each island; and (3) population size shows a stable or increasing trend after attaining the specified number of populations and individuals per island. Self-sustaining is defined in this case as maintaining (or increasing) population levels without additional releases of captive-bred nēnē. However, habitat manipulation, such as pasture management or predator control, may be necessary for populations to remain stable.

The draft revised recovery plan further specifies that nēnē can be considered for delisting when population levels on Hawaii, Maui Nui, and Kauai have each shown a stable or increasing trend (from downlisting levels) for an additional minimum of 15 years.

#### Public Comments Solicited

We will accept written comments and information during this comment period. If you wish to comment, you may submit your comments and materials concerning this draft revised recovery plan by any of these methods:

1. You may submit written comments and information by mail, facsimile, or in person to: Field Supervisor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Pacific Islands Fish and Wildlife Office, 300 Ala Moana Boulevard, Room 3-122, Box 50088, Honolulu, Hawaii 96850 (facsimile: 808-792-9580).

2. You may send comments by electronic mail (e-mail) to: [nene\\_rp@r1.fws.gov](mailto:nene_rp@r1.fws.gov). If you submit comments by e-mail, please avoid the use of special characters and any form of encryption. Please also include your name and return address in your e-mail message.

Comments and materials received, as well as supporting documentation used in preparation of the draft revised recovery plan, will be available for inspection, by appointment, during

normal business hours at the address under (1) above.

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

Dated: July 20, 2004.

**David J. Wesley,**

*Acting Regional Director, Region 1, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.*

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**BILLING CODE 4310-55-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Fish and Wildlife Service

#### Notice of Availability of a Final Recovery Plan for the Threatened Guajón (*Eleutherodactylus cooki*)

**AGENCY:** Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of document availability.

**SUMMARY:** We, the Fish and Wildlife Service, announce the availability of the final recovery plan for the guajón (also referred to as the Puerto Rican demon). The guajón is one of sixteen species of frogs from the genus *Eleutherodactylus* (commonly known as “coquíes”) that inhabit the island of Puerto Rico, and is also the second largest species found on the island. The guajón is extremely limited in its geographic distribution. The species inhabits localities in the “Sierra de Panduras” mountain range, and the municipalities of Yabucoa, San Lorenzo, Humacao, Las Piedras, and west to Patillas-San Lorenzo. The guajón, named after the habitat it occupies, occurs at low and intermediate elevations, from 18 to 1,183 feet (5.5 to 360.6 meters) above sea level where it inhabits caves formed by large boulders of granite rock known as “guajonales” or streams with patches of rock without cave systems. The technical agency draft recovery plan includes specific recovery objectives and criteria to be met in order to delist the guajón under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act). We solicit review and comment on this technical agency draft recovery plan from local, State, and Federal agencies, and the public.

**ADDRESSES:** You may obtain a copy of the recovery plan by contacting the Boquerón Field Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, P.O. Box 491, Boquerón, Puerto Rico 00622 (telephone 787/851-7297), or by visiting our recovery plan Web site at <http://endangered.fws.gov/recovery/index.html#plans>.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Jorge Saliva at the above address (Telephone 787/851-7297, ext. 24).

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Background

We listed the guajón as threatened on June 11, 1997, under the Act (62 FR 31757). The guajón may be the only species of *Eleutherodactylus* in Puerto Rico that exhibits differences in color between sexes. Females have solid brown coloration, with a uniformly white undersurface. They have white-rimmed eyes, and large, truncate disks on their feet. Males have yellow coloration extending from the vocal sac to the abdomen and flanks. Females are larger than males, with a mean size (snout-vent length) of 2.01 inches (in) (5.11 centimeters (cm)) for females and 1.71 in (4.34 cm) for males. The voice of the guajón is low and melodious.

For this species, deforestation and earth movement for agricultural, urban and rural development, and highway construction are likely the principal causes for decline. In addition, the guajón is threatened by the use of pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers in adjacent areas, illegal garbage dumping, and the effects of catastrophic natural events such as droughts and hurricanes. Additional research is planned to look at these and other potential causes for decline.

Restoring an endangered or threatened animal or plant to the point where it is again a secure, self-sustaining member of its ecosystem is a primary goal of the endangered species program. To help guide the recovery effort, we are preparing recovery plans for most listed species. Recovery plans describe actions considered necessary for conservation of the species, establish criteria for downlisting or delisting, and estimate time and cost for implementing recovery measures.

The Act requires the development of recovery plans for listed species, unless such a plan would not promote the conservation of a particular species. Section 4(f) of the Act requires us to provide a public notice and an opportunity for public review and comment during recovery plan development. We will consider all information presented during a public comment period prior to approval of each new or revised recovery plan. We and other Federal agencies will take these comments into account in the course of implementing approved recovery plans.

The objective of this recovery plan is to provide a framework for the recovery of the guajón so that protection under the Act is no longer necessary. As