
Fish and Wildlife Service
Availability of Draft Recovery Plan for the Lost River Sucker (*Deltistes luxatus*) and Shortnose Sucker (*Chasmistes brevirostris*) for Review and Comment

AGENCY: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of document availability.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) announces the availability for public review of a draft recovery plan for the Lost River sucker (*Deltistes luxatus*) and shortnose sucker (*Chasmistes brevirostris*). These fishes occur in the Klamath Basin of south-central Oregon, Klamath County, and north-central California, Modoc and Siskiyou counties. The Service solicits review and comment from the public on this draft plan.

DATES: Comments from all interested parties must be received on or before February 18, 1993 to receive consideration by the Service.

ADDRESSES: Persons wishing to review this draft recovery plan may obtain a copy by contacting the Field Supervisor, Sacramento Field Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 2800 Cottage Way, room E-1803, Sacramento, California 95825-1846 (phone 916-978-4866) or Assistant Regional Director, Ecological Services, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 911 NE 11th Avenue, Portland, Oregon 97232-4181 (phone 503-231-6241). Written comments and materials regarding the plan should be addressed to the Field Supervisor at the above Sacramento, California address. Comments and materials received are available on request for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the above Sacramento, California address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Peter Sorensen at the above Sacramento, California address (phone 916/978-4866).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Restoring endangered or threatened plants or animals to the point where they are again secure, self-sustaining

members of their ecosystem is a primary goal of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's endangered species program. To help guide the recovery effort, the Service is working to prepare recovery plans for most of the listed species native to the United States. Recovery plans describe site specific management actions considered necessary for conservation and survival of the species, establish objectives, measurable criteria for the recovery levels for downlisting or delisting of species, and estimate the time and cost needed to implement the recovery measures needed.

The Endangered Species Act of 1973 (Act), as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) requires the development of recovery plans for species listed unless such a plan would not promote the conservation of a particular species. Section 4(f) of the Act, as amended in 1988, requires that public notice and an opportunity for public review and comment be provided during recovery plan development. The Service will consider all information presented during a public comment period prior to approval of each new or revised recovery plan. The Service and other Federal agencies will also take these comments into account in the course of implementing approved recovery plans.

Lost River and shortnose suckers are threatened with extinction throughout their range. Once abundant enough to support large spawning runs in Upper Klamath Lake tributaries, a cannery, several other commercial operations that processed fish oil, dried fish, and other products on the Lost River, the populations of these species have declined precipitously. The principle causes of decline for these suckers have been the conversion of marsh habitat for agricultural purposes, the resulting deterioration in water quality, loss of spawning habitat caused by damming of rivers and creeks, manipulation of reservoir water levels for irrigation purposes, competition and predation by introduced species, and fragmentation of these species' ranges as a result of damming and diversion of rivers.

In addition to this public notice of review, this draft recovery plan will be distributed for review by members of the Klamath Basin Sucker Working Group and all public agencies with statutory responsibilities to participate in recovery actions for these species. In a court settlement of a lawsuit filed by the Oregon Natural Resources Council, the Service has agreed to an accelerated completion date of the Lost River sucker and shortnose sucker recovery plan. The recovery plan will reflect consideration of all material and comments received

during this comment period prior to its approval as a final document.

Public Comments Solicited

The Service solicits written comments on the Lost River and shortnose sucker recovery plan. All comments received by the date specified above will be considered prior to the approval of the plan.

Authority

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

Dated: January 12, 1993.

William E. Martin,

Acting Regional Director.

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