

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service 215-43

Availability of a Draft Recovery Plan for Three Utah Reed-Mustards; Clay Reed-Mustard (*Schoenocrambe argillacea*), Barneby Reed-Mustard (*Schoenocrambe barnebyi*), and Shrubby Reed-Mustard (*Schoenocrambe suffrutescens*) for Review and Comment

AGENCY: 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 three Utah reed-mustards: clay reed-mustard (*Schoenocrambe argillacea*), Barneby reed-mustard, (*Schoenocrambe barnebyi*), and shrubby reed-mustard (*Schoenocrambe suffrutescens*). These plants occur in desert shrublands in Emery, Wayne, and Uintah Counties in eastern Utah. The Service solicits review and comment from the public on this draft recovery plan.

DATES: Comments on the draft recovery plan must be received on or before November 22, 1993, to receive consideration by the Service.

ADDRESSES: Persons wishing to review the draft recovery plan may obtain a copy by contacting the Field Supervisor, Ecological Services, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 2060 Administration Building, 1745 West 1700 South, Salt Lake City, Utah 84104. Written comments and materials regarding this draft recovery plan should be sent to the Field Supervisor at the Salt Lake City address given above. Comments and materials received are available on request for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the above address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: John L. England, Botanist (see ADDRESSES above), at telephone (801) 975-3630.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

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 Fish and Wildlife Service's (Service) 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 actions considered necessary for conservation of the species, establish criteria for the

recovery levels for downlisting or delisting them, and estimate time and cost for implementing the recovery measures needed.

The Endangered Species Act (Act) of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), 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, 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 also will take these comments into account in the course of implementing approved recovery plans.

The clay reed-mustard (*Schoenocrambe argillacea*), Barneby reed-mustard (*Schoenocrambe barnebyi*), and scrubby reed-mustard (*Schoenocrambe suffrutescens*) are rare endemic species occurring on specific soil types in low elevations of the northern and western portions of the Colorado Plateau in Emery, Wayne, and Uintah Counties in eastern Utah.

Schoenocrambe argillacea is a small sparsely leaved herbaceous plant about 6 to 12 inches tall with small pale lavender to whitish flowers. The species occurs in 3 populations, totaling about 6,000 plants, on lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management in southwestern Uintah County.

Schoenocrambe barnebyi also is sparsely leaved herbaceous plant (9-15 in.) with small light purple flowers. The Barneby reed-mustard occurs in 2 populations, totaling about 2,000 plants, on lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management and the National Park Service (in Capitol Reef National Park) in Emery and Wayne Counties.

Schoenocrambe suffrutescens is an herbaceous plant about 4 to 12 inches tall with small light yellow flowers. It is found in 3 populations, totaling about 5,000 plants, in desert shrublands with scattered Utah juniper and pinon pine trees. The species occurs on public lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management and Department of Energy, on State of Utah land, on Ute Tribal lands, and on private lands in Uintah County.

Schoenocrambe suffrutescens was listed under the Act as an endangered species on October 6, 1987 (52 FR 37416), under the name toad-flax cress (*Glaucocarpum suffrutescens*). The name was changed to shrubby reed-mustard (*Schoenocrambe suffrutescens*) on January 14, 1992 (57 FR 1398). S.

argillacea was listed as threatened, and *S. barnebyi* was listed as endangered under the Act on January 14, 1992 (57 FR 1398). These species were listed due to their small population size and due to current or potential threats of habitat destruction from mineral and energy exploration and development, recreational activities, and/or building stone excavation. The goal of the recovery plan is to maintain viable populations to ensure the species' survival and to guide recovery actions to facilitate downlisting and delisting of the species. Recovery efforts will focus on preventing impacts to the species or its habitat from land-use activities; conducting habitat inventories and biological research, horticultural propagation, and establishment of additional stands; and establishing formal land management designations that provide long-term protection of the species and its habitat.

Public Comments Solicited

The Service solicits written comments on the recovery plan described. All comments received by the date specified in the **DATES** section above will be considered prior to approval of the recovery plan.

Authority

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

Dated: September 10, 1993.

John L. Spinks, Jr.,

Deputy Regional Director.

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