

publishes a Notice, on a weekly basis, identifying unutilized, underutilized, excess and surplus Federal buildings and real property that HUD has reviewed for suitability for use to assist the homeless. Today's Notice is for the purpose of announcing that no additional properties have been determined suitable or unsuitable this week.

Dated: July 1, 1999.

Fred Karnas, Jr.,

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Economic Development.

[FR Doc. 99-17258 Filed 7-8-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4210-29-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Availability of a Draft Revised Recovery Plan for the Santa Cruz Long-Toed Salamander 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 Revised Recovery Plan for the Santa Cruz Long-Toed Salamander (*Ambystoma macrodactylum croceum*). The salamander occurs near the Pacific Coast in Monterey and Santa Cruz Counties, California.

DATES: Comments on the draft revised recovery plan must be received on or before September 7, 1999 to receive consideration by the Service.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the draft revised recovery plan are available for inspection by appointment, during normal business hours at the following location: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 2493 Portola Road, Suite B, Ventura, California 93003 (phone: 805/644-1766). Requests for copies of the draft revised recovery plan and written comments and materials regarding this plan should be addressed to Ms. Diane K. Noda, Field Supervisor, at the above Ventura address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Grace S. McLaughlin, Herpetologist, at the above Ventura address.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Restoring endangered or threatened animals and plants to the point where they are again secure, self-sustaining members of their ecosystem is a primary goal of the 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 actions considered necessary for the 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, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) (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 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 the public comment period prior to approval of each new or revised recovery plan. Substantive technical comments will result in changes to the plans. Substantive comments regarding recovery plan implementation may not necessarily result in changes to the recovery plans, 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. Individualized responses to comments will not be provided.

This salamander is listed as endangered. Currently it is known from no more than seven breeding sites comprising three metapopulations in the coastal areas of two Counties (Santa Cruz and Monterey) along the central coast of California. The Santa Cruz long-toed salamander inhabits temporary ponds for breeding and adjacent upland scrub and wooded areas during the nonbreeding season. These kinds of ponds and adjacent scrub and woodlands are restricted naturally to relatively few areas along the central coast of California. Direct habitat loss due to agriculture, urbanization, and road building is the main cause for decline. Other threats include pollution, siltation, and declining water quality in breeding ponds due to nearby development and agricultural activities; loss of non-breeding habitat and food resources due to the spread of exotic plants; predation by introduced fishes, bullfrogs, and tiger salamanders; and parasites.

The objective of this plan is to provide a framework for the recovery of the Santa Cruz long-toed salamander so that protection by the Act is no longer necessary. The recovery strategy for the Santa Cruz long-toed salamander is

focused on providing sufficient breeding and upland habitat to maintain self-sustaining populations of salamanders in each of the metapopulations, and minimizing or eliminating impacts and threats to salamander populations. This plan describes a five-part recovery strategy with specific tasks necessary to maintain healthy aquatic, riparian, and adjacent upland ecosystems that provide habitat for Santa Cruz long-toed salamanders. The tasks, when implemented, will stabilize and maintain populations throughout the range of the Santa Cruz long-toed salamander in California by protecting sufficient breeding and nonbreeding habitat, monitor the status of existing populations to ensure recovery actions are successful, identify and secure additional suitable Santa Cruz long-toed salamander habitat and populations, conduct research to determine the population dynamics and ecology of the species to guide management efforts and determine the best methods for reducing threats, and continue and expand an outreach program.

Public Comments Solicited

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

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

Dated: July 1, 1999.

Elizabeth H. Stevens,

Acting Manager, California/Nevada Operations Office, Region 1, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

[FR Doc. 99-17276 Filed 7-8-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Availability of Draft Revised Recovery Plan for Hawaiian Waterbirds, Second Revision

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of document availability.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announces the availability for public review of a draft Revised Recovery Plan for Hawaiian Waterbirds, Second Revision. The four waterbirds covered by this plan, the Hawaiian duck or koloa maoli (*Anas wyvilliana*), Hawaiian coot or "alae ke'oke'o (*Fulica alai*), Hawaiian moorhen or "alae "ula (*Gallinula chloropus sandvicensis*), and

the Hawaiian stilt or ae'o (*Himantopus mexicanus knudseni*), are all listed as endangered species by the Federal government and the State of Hawaii. All four species require wetlands for their survival. These species are currently found on one or more of the eight main Hawaiian Islands (Niihau, Kauai, Oahu, Maui, Molokai, Lanai, Kahoolawe, and Hawaii). None of these species are thought to number more than 2,500 individuals, with the exception of the Hawaiian coot which is estimated to range between 2,000 and 4,000 birds statewide.

DATES: Comments on the draft revised recovery plan received by September 7, 1999 will be considered by the Service.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the draft revised recovery plan are available for inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the following locations: US Fish and Wildlife Service, Pacific Islands Office, 300 Ala Moana Boulevard, Room 3-122, Box 50088, Honolulu, Hawaii 96850 (phone 808/541-3441); and Hawaii State Library, 478 S. King Street, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813. Requests for copies of the draft revised recovery plan and written comments and materials regarding this plan should be addressed to the Pacific Islands Manager, at the above Honolulu address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Karen Rosa, Assistant Field Supervisor, Pacific Islands Office (See **ADDRESSES** section).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Restoring endangered or threatened animals and plants to the point where they are again secure, self-sustaining members of their ecosystems is a primary goal of the 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 actions considered necessary for the 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, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) (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 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 the public comment period prior to approval of each new or revised recovery plan. Substantive technical comments will result in changes to the plans. Substantive comments regarding recovery plan implementation may not necessarily result in changes to the recovery plans, 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. Individualized responses to comments will not be provided.

The four waterbirds covered by this draft revised recovery plan, the Hawaiian duck or koloa maoli (*Anas wyvilliana*), Hawaiian coot or "alae ke'oke'o (*Fulica alai*), Hawaiian moorhen or "alae "ula (*Gallinula chloropus sandvicensis*), and the Hawaiian stilt or ae'o (*Himantopus mexicanus knudseni*), are all listed as endangered species by the Federal government and the State of Hawaii. Hawaiian ducks are found on the islands of Kauai-Niihau, Oahu, Maui, and Hawaii; Hawaiian coots and Hawaiian stilts are found on all the main Hawaiian Islands except Kahoolawe; and the Hawaiian moorhen is found only on the islands of Kauai and Oahu. All four species require wetlands for their survival. The population of wild Hawaiian ducks in the State of Hawaii is estimated to be 2,500 birds. The statewide coot population is estimated to range between 2,000 and 4,000 birds. Hawaiian moorhens are by far the most difficult of the waterbirds to census, thus accurate population estimates do not exist. However, the Hawaii State Division of Forestry and Wildlife waterbird counts give a rough idea of population trends and indicate that moorhen numbers range between 200 and 400 birds. The Hawaiian stilt population is estimated to range between 1,200 and 1,600 birds.

The four waterbirds addressed in this plan are found in a variety of wetland habitats including freshwater marshes, coastal ponds, taro patches, irrigation ditches, and in the case of the Hawaiian duck, montane streams and swamplands. The primary cause of the decline of these four species of endangered waterbirds has been the loss of wetland habitat. Hunting is another factor that contributed to the historic decline of waterbird populations but does not pose a threat presently. Factors that continue to be detrimental include predation by introduced mammals, including mongooses, feral cats, dogs, and rats; invasion of wetlands by alien plants and fish; hybridization; disease;

altered hydrology; and possibly environmental contaminants.

The objective of the draft revised recovery plan is to provide a framework for the recovery of these four taxa so that their protection by the Endangered Species Act is no longer necessary. Actions called for in the revised plan include protection of habitat; management of wetland areas to maximize productivity and survival; conducting research to better define limiting factors, assist in determination of recovery objectives and improve management techniques; monitoring of populations; removal of the threat of mallard-Hawaiian duck hybridization; supplementation of populations of Hawaiian duck and Hawaiian moorhen; and conducting public education and information programs.

For downlisting, wetlands identified in the plan should be protected and managed following management practices identified in the revised recovery plan, monitoring should indicate that populations are stable or increasing above a minimum (2,000 for the Hawaiian duck, 1,800 for the Hawaiian coot, 1,500 for the Hawaiian stilt and the Hawaiian moorhen) for at least 5 consecutive years, and multiple viable breeding populations should exist on several islands identified in the revised recovery plan.

For delisting, in addition to areas already protected and managed, primary habitats identified in the plan should be protected and managed following management practices identified in the revised recovery plan, monitoring should indicate that populations are stable or increasing for at least 10 consecutive years, and multiple viable breeding populations should exist on several islands identified in the plan for each species.

Public Comments Solicited

The Service solicits written comments on the draft revised recovery plan described. All comments received by the date specified above will be considered prior to approval of this plan.

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

Dated: July 2, 1999.

William B. Zimmerman,
Acting Regional Director, Region 1, Portland, Oregon.

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