

Federal Communications Commission

Michael C. Ruger,
Chief, Allocations Branch, Policy and Rules
Division, Mass Media Bureau.

[FR Doc. 93-16980 Filed 7-16-93; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6712-01-M

47 CFR Part 90

[PR Docket No. 93-61; DA 93-812]

Regulations for Automatic Vehicle Monitoring Systems

AGENCY: Federal Communications Commission.

ACTION: Proposed Rule; extension of time.

SUMMARY: On April 9, 1993, the Commission released a Notice of Proposed Rule Making, FCC 93-141, concerning regulations for automatic vehicle monitoring systems.

In order to provide adequate time for commenters to submit reply comments, this Order extends the deadlines for reply comments.

DATES: Reply comments must be filed on or before July 29, 1993.

ADDRESSES: Federal Communications Commission, 1919 M St., NW., Washington, DC 20554.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Steve Sharkey, Private Radio Bureau, (202) 634-2443.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Order Extending Reply Comment Period

Adopted: July 6, 1993.

Released: July 7, 1993.

By the Chief, Land Mobile and Microwave Division:

1. On March 11, 1993, the Commission adopted a Notice of Proposed Rule Making in the above-captioned proceeding.¹ The specified deadlines for comments and reply comments were June 29, 1993 and July 14, 1993, respectively. On June 28, 1993, the Part 15 Coalition requested that we extend the date for filing reply comments to August 15, 1993. In support of their request, the Part 15 Coalition indicates that the 15 days now provided for filing reply comments from the date comments are due is inadequate to acquire the original comments, prepare a response and coordinate a reply with all of the part 15 Coalition members.

2. In addition to the arguments presented by the part 15 Coalition, we

¹ Notice of Proposed Rule Making, PR Docket No. 93-61, 58 FR 21276, April 20, 1993, 8 FCC Rcd 2502 (1993).

note that we received 85 comments in response to the Notice approximately 30 of which are substantial comments involving technical issues requiring time consuming evaluation. We therefore agree that the public interest would be served by providing interested parties with some additional time to perform technical analyses and, where possible, develop an industry consensus. In our view, however, a thirty (30) day extension on the reply comment date is excessive, and would cause an unacceptable delay in our regulatory processes.

3. Accordingly, it is ordered, pursuant to Section 0.331 of the Commission's Rules, 47 CFR 0.331, the Motion for Extension of Time filed by the part 15 Coalition is GRANTED to the extent indicated herein and otherwise denied, and that the deadline for filing reply comments in response to the subject Notice of Proposed Rule Making is extended to July 29, 1993.

Federal Communications Commission.

Edward R. Jacobs,

Deputy Chief, Land Mobile and Microwave Division, Private Radio Bureau.

[FR Doc. 93-16340 Filed 7-16-93; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6712-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

50 CFR Part 17

Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; 90-Day Finding for a Petition to List Four California Butterflies as Endangered and Continuation of Status Reviews

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of petition findings.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) announces a 90-day finding on a pending petition to add four butterflies to the List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife. A petition to list four species has been received by the Service. The petition was found to present substantial information for one of the four butterfly species (Laguna Mountains skipper) indicating that the requested action may be warranted. The petition did not provide supporting information on three species of butterflies: Hermes copper butterfly, Thorne's hairstreak butterfly, and Harbison's dun skipper. However, the Service has found that substantial information exists to support a decision that listing may be warranted for these three species based on available

information. Therefore, through issuance of this document, the Service is continuing a formal review of the status of all four species.

DATES: The finding announced in this document was made on July 12, 1993. Comments and materials related to this petition finding may be submitted to the Field Supervisor at the address below until further notice.

ADDRESSES: Data, information, comments, or questions concerning the status of the petitioned species described below should be submitted to the Field Supervisor, Carlsbad Field Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 2730 Loker Avenue West, Carlsbad, California 92008. The petition, finding, supporting data, and comments are available for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the above address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Nancy Gilbert, Carlsbad Field Office, at the above address (619/431-9440).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Section 4(b)(3)(A) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1533) (Act), requires that the Service make a finding on whether a petition to list, delist, or reclassify a species presents substantial scientific or commercial information indicating that the petitioned action may be warranted. To the maximum extent practicable, this finding is to be made within 90 days of the receipt of the petition, and the finding is to be published promptly in the Federal Register. If the Service finds that a petition presents substantial information indicating that a requested action may be warranted, then the Service initiates a status review on that species. A status review may also be independently initiated by the Service (16 U.S.C. section 1533 (b)(3)(A)).

On June 4, 1991, the Service received a petition dated May 27, 1991, from David Hogan of the San Diego Biodiversity Project to list the Laguna Mountains skipper (*Pyrgus ruralis lagunae*), Hermes copper butterfly (*Lycaena hermes*), Harbison's dun skipper (*Euphyes vestris harbisoni*), and Thorne's hairstreak butterfly (*Mitoura thornei*) as endangered species. Mr. Hogan's petition to list four butterfly species presented substantial information indicating that listing may be warranted for the Laguna Mountains skipper. This document announces a positive 90-day finding for the Laguna Mountains skipper (*Pyrgus ruralis lagunae*).

Mr. Hogan's petition failed to provide supporting data for three of the four

petitioned taxa: Hermes copper butterfly, Harbison's dun skipper, and Thorne's hairstreak butterfly. The petition stated that additional information on these four species would be forwarded to the Service. No additional information was received. Thus, the petition did not present substantial information indicating that the petitioned action for the Hermes copper butterfly, Harbison's dun skipper, and Thorne's hairstreak butterfly may be warranted. The Service announces a negative 90-day finding for the petition to list these three taxa as endangered. However, the Service currently considers these three butterflies to be category 2 candidates for listing (category 2 candidates are taxa for which information now in possession by the Service indicates that proposing to list as endangered or threatened is possibly appropriate, but for which conclusive data on biological vulnerability and threat are not currently available to support a proposed rule).

The Service, therefore, will continue to conduct status reviews on all four butterflies. Section 4(b)(3)(B) of the Act requires the Service to make a finding as to whether or not the petitioned actions are warranted within 1 year of the receipt of a petition that presents substantial information.

In his petition, Mr. Hogan stated that the Laguna Mountains skipper (*Pyrgus ruralis lagunae*) is imperiled by the destruction of this insect's host plant (*Horkelia bolanderi* ssp. *clevelandi*) by overgrazing and trampling within the Cleveland National Forest. Mr. Hogan requested that the Service consider emergency listing procedures for the Laguna Mountains skipper.

Pyrgus ruralis ranges from western Canada south to southern California in montane habitats. The Laguna Mountains skipper (*Pyrgus ruralis lagunae*) (Scott 1981) is a morphologically distinct and geographically isolated subspecies restricted to the Laguna Mountains and Mount Palomar of San Diego County, California (Scott 1981). The nearest *P. ruralis* populations occur several hundred miles to the north in the extreme southern Sierra Nevada Mountains (Brown 1991).

The Laguna Mountains skipper subspecies is restricted to a few open meadows in yellow pine forest between 5,000 and 6,000 feet (1,524 and 1,829 meters), in the vicinity of Mount Laguna and Palomar Mountain (Brown 1991). Six separate populations are believed to have occurred in the 1950s and 1960s (Murphy 1990). The Laguna Mountains skipper is presently only known from

two or three locations (Brown 1991). The known distribution of this butterfly near Mount Laguna lies within a 5 mile (8 kilometer (km)) radius. The majority of specimens have been collected from a single location in the Laguna Mountains. The Mount Palomar population is very small; only five specimens have been reported from over the past century, and the most recent records are from 1991 (Brown 1991). Old specimen information indicates that the Laguna Mountains skipper formerly may have occurred in the mountain meadows throughout San Diego County (Wright 1930, Scott 1981). No records for the butterfly are known to occur from other southern California counties (Murphy 1990).

The Laguna Mountains skipper is found in association with open meadows within pine forests (Emmel and Emmel 1973, Murphy 1990). Life history information for this butterfly has not been documented; however, it is believed that the eggs are laid on the leaves of *Horkelia bolanderi* ssp. *clevelandi* and that the larvae feed on the leaves and overwinter on this host plant. Oviposition and rearing have been observed on this plant (Brown 1991). *H. bolanderi* ssp. *clevelandi* is a small herbaceous perennial plant in the rose family (Rosaceae) (Munz 1974). This plant occurs in mesic places in yellow pine forests at 4,000 to 7,500 feet (1,219 to 2,286 meters) from the San Jacinto Mountains to northern Baja California, Mexico. In San Diego County, this plant is recorded as occurring infrequently in moist areas beneath montane coniferous forests from Mount Palomar and the Laguna Mountains (Beauchamp 1986). Additionally, this plant is fairly common in the Sierra de Juarez of northern Baja California, Mexico (Brown 1991).

Prior to a 1983 rediscovery, the Laguna Mountains skipper had not been observed since 1972. This subspecies has become increasingly less common and has rarely been collected over the last 2 decades. Few extant colonies exist, and, based on the collection data, the population numbers are estimated to be small (Brown 1991, Murphy 1990). Because of its restricted range and its continued decline in numbers, the Laguna Mountains skipper is "probably the most sensitive and vulnerable butterfly species in San Diego County" and is believed to be "a strong candidate for immediate inclusion on the endangered species list" (Brown 1991, Murphy 1990).

Overgrazing is thought to be an important threat to the Laguna Mountains skipper (Murphy 1990).

Cattle may graze on the host plant and/or trample the plants, eggs, and larvae. All of the locations where the subspecies presently occurs are within actively used grazing allotments. Six separate populations in the Mount Laguna area have been documented, including Big Laguna, Little Laguna, East Laguna, Laguna Lake, Boiling Springs, and Horse Heaven Springs. Currently, only a few meadow localities are known to be occupied. These locations occur within the Cleveland National Forest and encompass approximately 700 acres of meadow habitat within the known range of this species.

The Hermes copper butterfly (*Lycaena hermes*) (Edward, 1870) is known only from western San Diego County and a portion of adjacent northwestern Baja California, Mexico (Brown 1991). Its present known range is quite restricted, extending from approximately 50 miles (80 km) north of the International Border and east 45 miles (72 km) inland from the coast to Guatay and Pine Valley. It occurs south of the border for almost 100 miles (160 km) and has been found 18 miles (29 km) south of Santa Tomas in Baja California Norte, Mexico (Murphy 1990). Documented localities for Hermes copper butterfly are known to exist including El Cajon, Santee, Flynn Springs, Blossom Valley, Tecate, Suncrest, Mission Gorge, Dulzura, Pine Valley, Guatay, and Old Viejas Grade (Brown 1991).

The Hermes copper butterfly occurs throughout the chaparral belt and into the transitional zone at the western edge of the Laguna Mountains (Brown 1991). The species is restricted to southern mixed chaparral and coastal sage scrub communities where its larval host plant, *Rhamnus crocea* (redberry) (Brown 1991), occurs. These habitat types range from near sea level along the coast to about 1,250 feet (381 meters) in elevation at the western edge of the Laguna Mountains. Colonies of Hermes copper butterflies are found in close association with the larval host plant. However, the host plant extends well beyond the range of the Hermes copper butterfly. No explanation for the restricted distribution of this butterfly is presently known.

The colonies of Hermes copper butterflies were considered to be quite stable and numerous in San Diego County in 1963 (Thorne 1963). However, a history of extirpation of colonies has occurred, due to the location of colonies near the expanding City of San Diego. The Hermes copper butterfly has lost a significant portion of its known range; presently it is estimated to occupy less than half of its

former range. Continued development in San Diego County threatens this species (Brown 1991). Additionally, fire plays an integral role in the chaparral and coastal sage scrub communities of southern California. Fire has been documented as eliminating large stands of *Rhamnus crocea*. The largest colony of Hermes copper butterflies was destroyed by fire in 1982 (Murphy 1990). The small degree of flight activity of this butterfly is believed to make natural recolonization a very slow process (Murphy 1990, Brown 1991).

The Hermes copper butterfly has been collected at 35 localities in the United States and 4 localities in Mexico. Colonies are isolated from each other, and adults exhibit limited vagility and are almost always found in the vicinity of the host plant. Thorne (1963) indicated that colonies are stable and seldom vary in size. Brown (Dr. John Brown, Entomologist, San Diego, California, pers. comm., 1992) estimates that few colonies exceed 50 individuals in size. Brown (1991) regards the Hermes copper butterfly to be highly sensitive and vulnerable to extirpation.

Euphyes vestris is a polytypic species that ranges throughout much of the United States, but is highly localized and occurs in isolated and disjunct populations (Brown 1991). Harbison's dun skipper (*Euphyes vestris harbisoni* Brown and McGuire, 1983) is a San Diego and Orange County endemic subspecies that occurs in scattered disjunct colonies (Orsak 1977, Brown and McGuire 1983). It is phenotypically distinct and geographically isolated from all other populations of *E. vestris* (Emmel and Emmel 1973, Brown 1983). It occurs in disjunct colonies throughout western San Diego County extending into the Santa Ana Mountains in Orange County (Orsak 1977). It is not known to occur in Baja California, Mexico (Brown 1991). Its range is restricted in part by the distribution of the larval host plant, *Carex spissa* (San Diego sedge) (Brown 1983).

Typical habitat for this species in southern California consists of riparian oak woodland in a matrix of chamise chaparral or southern mixed chaparral (Brown 1991). Moist conditions must occur to support the larval host plant. *Carex spissa* has a disjunct and limited distribution from San Luis Obispo County, California, into Baja California, Mexico (Munz 1974). Brown (1991) surveyed known locations of the San Diego sedge in 1982. Harbison's dun skipper occurred at nearly all locations where the plant was found in considerable numbers. The butterfly was not located in areas that did not contain *Carex spissa* (Brown 1982). The

distribution of Harbison's dun skipper is from Silverado Canyon in southern Orange County south to the International Border in the vicinity of Dulzura, San Diego County, California. Localities include areas of Dulzura, Flinn Springs, Old Viejas Grade, Otay Mountain, the northern slope of Tecate Peak, the Fallbrook area, east of Valley Center, Ramona area, and near San Pasqual (Brown 1991).

The Harbison's dun skipper is an exceptionally rare insect that occurs in small isolated colonies (Brown 1991). The remaining colonies are in areas that appear to be removed from development for the present. However, rapid urban development in inland areas such as Rancho Bernardo, Escondido, and Fallbrook is occurring and poses a future threat to this subspecies. Various human activities modify or disrupt the spring and seep habitat of Harbison's dun skipper and thus reduces habitat quality for the butterfly (Murphy 1990). Habitat loss through development, introduction of pollutants, and competition from invasive non-native plants have resulted in the loss of the host plant and thus Harbison's dun skipper. Additionally, adverse effects on the host plant may occur as a result of drought or scouring floods.

The Thorne's hairstreak butterfly (*Mitoura thornei*) (Brown 1983) is specifically associated with the endemic *Cupressus forbesii* (Tecate cypress) and is only known from the vicinity of Otay Mountain in southwest San Diego County, California. *Cupressus forbesii* occurs on Otay Mountain, Coal Canyon in Orange County, Tecate Peak near Guatay in San Diego County, and several disjunct groves that extend 150 miles (241 km) south into Baja California, Mexico (Griffin and Critchfield 1972). The Thorne's hairstreak butterfly has only been located in the vicinity of Otay Mountain (Brown 1991).

The taxonomic status of this butterfly is the subject of disagreement. It is considered a distinct species by several authors (Brown 1983, Garth and Tilden 1988, Ferris 1989), while others suggest that it be considered a subspecies of *Mitoura grynea* (Scott 1986) or *Mitoura loki* (Shields 1984). Regardless of the outcome of taxonomy discussions, it is recognized as a biologically distinct butterfly that is geographically isolated from its closest relatives (Brown 1991).

The Thorne's hairstreak butterfly's larval host plant, *Cupressus forbesii*, is a fire dependent species. Fire initiates cone opening and seed dispersal. Zedler (1977) found that *Cupressus forbesii* requires approximately 25 years to reach reproductive maturity. Thus, an

increase in fire frequency to less than 25 year intervals adversely affects reproduction of both *Cupressus forbesii* and the Thorne's hairstreak butterfly. Fire frequencies are affected by both fire suppression techniques and human-caused fire (e.g., fires that result from gun and rifle target practice, campfires, arson, and carelessness). Fire suppression can result in a build up of fuel materials resulting in large catastrophic, very hot burning fires. Conversely, human-caused fires can result in an increased fire frequency. Based on its limited geographic distribution and its vulnerability to ecological catastrophic events, Brown (1991) included this species as a sensitive and declining butterfly of San Diego County.

The Service has been soliciting information on the status of the Hermes copper butterfly since 1984. In the most recent Animal Notice of Review, published November 21, 1991 (56 FR 58804), the Hermes copper butterfly is included as a category 2 candidate. Category 2 candidates are taxa for which information now in possession of the Service indicates that proposing to list as endangered or threatened is possibly appropriate, but for which conclusive data on biological vulnerability and threat are not currently available to support a proposed rule. The Service has been soliciting status information on the Laguna Mountains skipper, Harbison's dun skipper, and Thorne's hairstreak butterfly since the publication of the January 6, 1989, Animal Notice of Review (54 FR 554). These three species are included in the 1991 notice as category 2 candidates.

Based on their remaining localized and restricted ranges, the documented decline in abundance and known locations, and the varied threats to remaining habitat, the Service believes that the information currently available supports the claims presented by the petitioner. As a result, the Service finds that substantial information exists to indicate that listing of the Laguna Mountains skipper, Hermes copper butterfly, Harbison's dun skipper, and Thorne's hairstreak butterfly as endangered may be warranted. The Service will carefully assess any emergency posing a significant risk to the well-being of the Laguna Mountains skipper, as requested by the petitioner.

With the publication of this finding, the Service announces its intention to continue to conduct a formal status review for each of the above species. The Service will consider any additional data, comments, and suggestions from the public, other governmental agencies, the scientific

community, industry, or any other interested party concerning the status of these species.

This finding was prepared by the staff of the Carlsbad Field Office and reviewed by the Portland Regional Office. The finding is based on scientific and commercial information contained in the petition, referenced in the petition, and otherwise available to the Service at this time.

References Cited

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Author

This document was prepared by Nancy Gilbert, Carlsbad Field Office (see ADDRESSES section).

List of Subjects in 50 CFR Part 17

Endangered and threatened species, Exports, Imports, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Transportation.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1361-1407; 16 U.S.C. 1531-1544; 16 U.S.C. 4201-4245; Pub. L. 99-625, 100 Stat. 3500; unless otherwise noted.

Dated: July 12, 1993.

Richard N. Smith,

Acting Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

[FR Doc. 93-17026 Filed 7-16-93; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-26-P

50 CFR Part 17

Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants: Finding on a Petition to Change the Status of Any Grizzly Bear Population in the San Juan Mountain Range of Colorado From Threatened to Endangered

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of 90-day petition finding.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) announces a 90-day finding for a petition to amend the List of Threatened and Endangered Wildlife. The Service finds that the petitioners did not provide substantial information to show that reclassification of the alleged grizzly bear (*Ursus arctos horribilis*) population in the San Juan Mountain range of Colorado is warranted.

DATES: The finding announced in this notice was approved on July 10, 1993. Comments and materials may be submitted until further notice.

ADDRESSES: Questions or comments concerning this finding should be sent to the Colorado State Supervisor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 730 Simms Street, room 290, Golden, Colorado 80401. The petition, finding, and supporting data are available for public

inspection by appointment during normal business hours at the above office.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: LeRoy W. Carlson, State Supervisor, at the above address or telephone (303) 231-5280.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 4(b)(3)(A) of the Endangered Species Act (Act) of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), requires that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) make a finding on whether a petition to list, delist, or reclassify a species presents substantial scientific or commercial information to demonstrate that the petitioned action may be warranted. To the maximum extent practicable, this finding is to be made within 90 days of the receipt of the petition, and the finding is to be published promptly in the **Federal Register**.

A petition dated July 11, 1992, was received by the Service from the Sierra Institute and Life Net on July 15, 1992. The petition requests the Service to reclassify the grizzly bear (*Ursus arctos horribilis*) from threatened to endangered in the San Juan Mountain range of southwestern Colorado. This finding responds to the subject petition.

The petitioners indicated the grizzly bears in the San Juan Mountain range are imperiled by their small population size, increasing economic and recreational development, and inadequacy or lack of governmental protection of the grizzly bears and their habitat. The economic and recreational development listed by the petitioners included road construction and use, and land management activities, livestock grazing, mining, land development, and ski resort development.

While the petition referenced a wide variety of reports of sightings of grizzly bears, habitat analysis of the San Juan Mountain range, hair samples analysis, and aerial surveys, the Service maintains that none of these sources contained conclusive biological information indicating that any grizzly bears still exist in the subject area. The Colorado Division of Wildlife and the Service have investigated all the purported grizzly bear incidences which have been reported, including photographs of tracks and sightings. To date, none have constituted persuasive proof of the existence of grizzly bears in Colorado.

The San Juan Mountain range area in Colorado is included in the draft revised Grizzly Bear Recovery Plan as an evaluation area (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 1992)—an area that needs to be evaluated to determine its feasibility as