

PROPOSED RULES

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

[50 CFR Part 17]

ENDANGERED AND THREATENED
WILDLIFEProposed Endangered Status for 6 Species
of Butterfly in California

Background: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has evidence that the following species of butterflies are Endangered species as defined by the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (U.S.C. 1531-1543, 87 Stat. 884): San Bruno elfin (*Callophrys mossii bayensis*); Lotis blue (*Lycacides argyrognomon lotis*); Mission blue (*Icaricia icarioides missionensis*); Smith's blue (*Philotes enoptes smithi*); El Segundo blue (*Shitjimaecoides batoides allyni*); Lange's metalmark (*Apodemia mormo langei*).

Section 4(a) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 states that the Secretary of the Interior or the Secretary of Commerce may determine a species to be an Endangered species, or a Threatened species, because of any of five factors. These factors, and their application to the San Bruno elfin, Lotis blue, Mission blue, Smith's blue, El Segundo blue, and Lange's metalmark, are as follows:

1. *The present or threatened destruction, modification, or curtailment of its habitat or range.*

San Bruno elfin. This butterfly is limited in occurrence to a few moist canyons in San Mateo County, California. Proposed development poses a serious threat to its continued existence. The occurrence of the butterfly is dependent upon present topographic configuration and floristic elements, the most important of which is its caterpillar food plant, stone-crop (*Sedum spathulifolium*).

Lotis blue. At present this butterfly is definitely known to occur only in a few isolated bogs in Mendocino County, California. The principal portion of the butterfly's habitat occurs on a powerline right-of-way. Formerly, a population of the Lotis blue occurred at Point Arena, Mendocino County, California, but it has not been found there for over 30 years, and the population is presumed to be extirpated.

Mission blue. This butterfly is limited in distribution to two small isolated populations which occur on the summits of Twin Peaks, San Francisco County, and the San Bruno Mountains, San Mateo County, California. In San Francisco County, the Mission blue was formerly more widespread on the higher hills within the county, but due to expansion of the city and plantings of exotic plants, such as eucalyptus, is now reduced to a

tiny remnant on Twin Peaks and may soon become extirpated. In the San Bruno Mountains, the species is uncommon, and proposed developments there would probably eliminate the butterfly.

Smith's blue. This butterfly is known from coastal sand dunes in Monterey County, California. Its largest population occurs on the most coastal portion of the Monterey dune complex at Seaside and probably Fort Ord (U.S. Army), Monterey County, California. The Seaside and Marina populations have been almost extirpated by housing developments and highway construction, while the Fort Ord populations have been most seriously impacted by heavy foot and vehicular traffic, as well as the spread of introduced ice-plant (*Mesembryanthemum* spp.).

El Segundo blue. This butterfly was formerly widespread on the El Segundo sand hills (96 sq. km.), Los Angeles County, California. Now, due to public and private development, the El Segundo blue is limited to a few acres near El Segundo and a larger area at the west end of the Los Angeles International Airport. Any further development on these few remaining sites could well bring about the species' extinction.

Lange's metalmark. Originally from sand dunes from near Antioch and Oakley, Contra Costa County, California. The butterfly has not been found at Oakley for more than 30 years. Near Antioch, the populations are now largely restricted to a few acres north of Wilbur Road. Alteration of the species' habitat has been due largely to industrial and agricultural development.

2. *Overutilization for commercial, sporting, scientific, or educational purposes.*

Not applicable for any of the species.

3. *Disease or predation.*

Not applicable for any of the species.

4. *The inadequacy of existing regulatory mechanisms.*

There currently exist no regulations pertaining to the protection and conservation of any of these species.

5. *Other natural or man-made factors affecting its continued existence.*

Not applicable for any of the species.

PUBLIC COMMENTS SOLICITED

The Director intends that finally adopted rules be as responsive as possible to the conservation of endangered and threatened species; he therefore desires to obtain the comments and suggestions of the public, other concerned governmental agencies, and private interests on these proposed rules.

Final promulgation of the regulations on these butterflies and on critical habitat will take into consideration the comments received by the Director. Such comments and any additional information received, may lead the Director to adopt final regulations that differ from this proposal. The Director has under preparation an environmental assessment concerning this matter.

SUBMITTAL OF WRITTEN COMMENTS

Interested persons may participate in this rulemaking by submitting written comments, preferably in triplicate, to the Director (FWS/LE), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Post Office Box 19183, Washington, D.C. 20036. All relevant comments received no later than December 12, 1975, will be considered. Comments received will be available for public inspection during normal business hours at the Service's office in Suite 600, 1612 K Street, NW., Washington, D.C.

(Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531-43; 87 Stat. 884).)

Dated: October 6, 1975.

LYNN A. GREENWALT,
Director,
Fish and Wildlife Service.

Accordingly, it is hereby proposed to amend Part 17, Subchapter B of Chapter I, Title 50 of CFR, as set forth below:

§ 17.12 [Amended]

In § 17.12, add a new heading at the end of the list for insects, and add the following:

Insects:

- Butterfly, El Segundo blue; *Shitjimaecoides battoides allyni* (Range: Los Angeles County, California; Portion of range where endangered: entire).
- Butterfly, Lange's metalmark; *Apodemia mormo langei* (Range: Contra Costa County, California; Portion of range where endangered: entire).
- Butterfly, Lotis blue; *Lycacides argyrognomon lotis* (Range: Mendocino County, California; Portion of range where endangered: entire).
- Butterfly, Mission blue; *Icaricia icarioides missionensis* (Range: San Francisco and San Mateo Counties, California; Portion of range where endangered: entire).
- Butterfly, San Bruno elfin; *Callophrys mossii bayensis* (Range: San Mateo County, California; Portion of range where endangered: entire).
- Butterfly, Smith's blue; *Philotes enoptes smithi* (Range: Monterey County, California; Portion of range where endangered: entire).

[FR Doc.75-27547 Filed 10-10-75; 8:45 am]