

of the studies were limited because of their low relevance to the U.S. regarding the driving environment, including ambient light level differences, greater proportions of pedestrian and cyclist crashes in the study countries, and effects voluntary usage.

NHTSA has received the Transport Canada DRL report and the agency is still analyzing it. It provides a positive look at a narrow range of crashes that are susceptible to the DRL solution. More information is expected from Canada which will provide a view of DRL effect on all types of crashes. When received, it may provide a valuable resource for determining the value of DRLs in the U.S.

Because NHTSA has not yet been able to show a national safety benefit from the use of DRLs, a regulation mandating the installation and activation of any type of daytime lamp is not appropriate at this time. The agency does know, however, that DRLs improve a vehicle's frontal conspicuity in low to moderate ambient daylight illumination typical of more northern latitudes than those of the U.S. In 1990, GM petitioned the agency to change the lighting safety standards to explicitly permit but not mandate DRLs. As a result of GM's petition, Standard No. 108 was changed to permit certain kinds of DRLs which do not exhibit disbeneficial performance such as turn signal masking or glare in mirrors. GM has decided to provide DRLs on the 1995 Geo Metro, Chevrolet S10 pickup and the Corsica and Beretta intended for the U.S. market and plans to increase model coverage over the next few years. VW's Jetta III, Golf III and GTI car lines also have DRLs as standard equipment. SAAB and Volvo have DRLs available, but installation and use are optional depending on the models. The agency hopes to be able to monitor the safety experience of those vehicles with full model year DRLs installations to determine whether the mandatory installation and activation of DRLs in the U.S. would be cost beneficial to the public.

In evaluating whether to mandate DRLs, the agency must consider both potential benefits and costs. The costs of mandatory installation and activation of DRLs would be decreased fuel economy and increased vehicle purchase cost from the added wiring and switching devices. Additionally, depending on the manner in which the DRLs are implemented, headlamp burnout could increase. The benefits could include a decrease in the number of crashes, with accompanying reductions in casualties and crash repair costs. While the agency continues its analysis of this issue, it is inappropriate to commence a

rulemaking proceeding. Should the analysis indicate significant safety benefits at a reasonable cost, the agency could initiate rulemaking at that time.

In accordance with 49 CFR part 552, this completes the agency's technical review of the petition. The agency has concluded that there is no reasonable possibility that the amendment requested by the petitioner would be issued at the conclusion of the rulemaking proceeding undertaken at this time. Accordingly, it denies Mr. Smyth's petition.

Authority: 49 U.S.C. 30103, 30162; delegation of authority at 49 CFR 1.50 and 501.8.

Issued on: June 30, 1995.

Barry Felrice,

Associate Administrator for Safety Performance Standards.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

50 CFR Part 17

Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Notice of Public Hearing on Proposed Endangered Status for Three Aquatic Invertebrates in Comal and Hays Counties, Texas

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Proposed rule; notice of public hearing.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service gives notice that a public hearing will be held on the proposed determination of endangered status for three aquatic invertebrates: Peck's cave amphipod (*Stygobromus pecki*), Comal Springs riffle beetle (*Heterelmis comalensis*), and Comal Springs dryopid beetle (*Stygoparnus comalensis*). These species are known only from springs in Comal County and Hays County, Texas, and, in the case of the amphipod and dryopid beetle, the associated aquifer. All interested parties are invited to submit comments on this proposal.

DATES: The public hearing will be held from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. on July 24, 1995, in New Braunfels, Texas. The comment period on this proposal closes on August 4, 1995. Comments must be postmarked by the closing date to be considered in the final decision on this proposal.

ADDRESSES: The public hearing will be held on July 24, 1995 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the New Braunfels Civic Center, 380 South Seguin Street, New Braunfels,

Texas. Written comments and materials should be sent directly to the Supervisor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ecological Services Field Office, 10711 Burnet Road, Suite 200, Austin, Texas 78758. Comments and materials received will be available for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the above address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ruth Stanford, Ecologist, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Austin Ecological Services Field Office, at the above address, telephone: (512) 490-0057.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The Peck's cave amphipod, Comal Springs riffle beetle, and Comal Springs dryopid beetle are restricted in distribution to spring sites in Comal and Hays counties, Texas, and, in the case of the latter two species, the associated aquifer. Peck's cave amphipod is known from Comal Springs and Hueco Springs, both in Comal County. The Comal Springs riffle beetle is known from Comal Springs and San Marcos Springs (Hays County). The Comal Springs dryopid beetle is known from Comal Springs and Fern Bank Springs (Hays County). The water flowing out of each of these spring orifices comes from the Edwards Aquifer (Balcones Fault Zone—San Antonio Region), which extends from Hays County on the east to Kinney County on the west. Comal Springs are located in Landa Park, which is owned and operated by the City of New Braunfels, and on private property adjacent to Landa Park. Hueco Springs and Fern Bank Springs are located on private property. San Marcos Springs is located on the property of Aquarena Springs, owned by Southwest Texas State University. The primary threat to the habitat of these aquatic invertebrates is a decrease in water quantity and quality as a result of water withdrawal and other activities by humans throughout the San Antonio segment of the Edwards Aquifer.

A proposal of endangered status for these invertebrates was published in the **Federal Register** (60 FR 29537) on June 5, 1995. Section 4(b)(5)(E) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.), requires that a public hearing be held if it is requested within 45 days of the publication of a proposed rule. On June 23, 1995, a request for a public hearing on this proposal was received from Mr. David Langford, Executive Vice President of the Texas Wildlife Association, San Antonio, Texas.

Anyone wishing to make an oral statement for the record is encouraged to provide a copy of his or her statement at the start of the hearing. In the event that there is a large attendance, the time allotted for oral statements may have to be limited. There is, however, no limit to the length of written comments or materials presented at the hearing or mailed to the Service. Oral and written comments receive equal consideration.

The comment period on the proposed rule closes on August 4, 1995. Written comments must be postmarked by August 4, 1995, and sent to the Service office in the **ADDRESSES** section.

Author: The primary author of this notice is Ruth A. Stanford, Austin Ecological Service Field Office, at the above address.

Authority: The authority for this action is the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1361-1407; U.S.C. 1531-1543; 16

U.S.C. 4201-4245; Pub. L. 99-625, Stat. 3500; unless otherwise noted).

List of Subjects in 50 CFR Part 17

Endangered and threatened species, Exports, Imports, Reporting and record-keeping requirements, Transportation.

Dated: June 29, 1995.

Joseph P. Mazzone,

Acting Regional Director.

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