

above, and the reimbursement for cost of publication of this Notice.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Gloria S. Baca, BLM, New Mexico State Office, (505) 438-7566.

Dated: August 3, 1995.

Gloria S. Baca,

Land Law Examiner.

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Fish and Wildlife Service

Availability of Draft Recovery Plan for Nineteen Florida Scrub and High Pineland Plants for Review and Comment

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of document availability and public comment period.

SUMMARY: The Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) announces the availability for public review of a draft recovery plan for nineteen plants from dry habitats in central Florida (Florida scrub and high pineland vegetation). This plan is a revision and expansion of a recovery plan, published in 1990, that covered eleven of these plant species. The Service solicits review and comment from the public on this draft plan.

DATES: Comments on the draft recovery plan must be received on or before October 10, 1995, to receive consideration by the Service.

ADDRESSES: Persons wishing to review the draft recovery plan may obtain a copy by contacting the Field Supervisor, Jacksonville Field Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 6620 Southpoint Drive, South, Suite 310, Jacksonville, Florida 32216 (Telephone: 904-232-2580, FAX 904-232-2404) or Assistant Regional Director, Ecological Services, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1875 Century Boulevard, Atlanta, Georgia, 30345 (Telephone: 404-679-7086). Written comments and materials regarding the plan should be addressed to the Field Supervisor, at the Jacksonville, Florida address. Comments and materials received are available on request for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours also at the Jacksonville, Florida address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: David L. Martin at the Jacksonville, Florida address.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Restoring endangered or threatened plants and animals to the point where

they are 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 conservation of the species, establish criteria for the recovery levels for downlisting or delisting species, and estimate time and cost for implementing the recovery measures needed.

The Endangered Species Act of 1973 (Act), 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 will take these comments into account in the course of implementing approved recovery plans.

The nineteen species covered by this recovery plan inhabit dry upland vegetation, either Florida scrub with shrubby evergreen oaks and sand pines, or high pineland with longleaf pine, deciduous oaks (either turkey oak or bluejack oak) and abundant wiregrass. The plants were added to the Federal List of Endangered (E) and Threatened (T) Plants as follows: *Chionanthus pygamaeus* (pygmy fringe tree) (E), *Eryngium cuneifolium* (a snakeroot) (E), *Hypericum cumulicola* (Highlands scrub hypericum) (E), *Paronychia chartacea* (papery whitlow-wort) (T), *Polygonella basiramia* (a wireweed) (E), *Prunus geniculata* (scrub plum) (E), and *Warea carteri* (Carter's mustard) (E) on January 21, 1987 (52 FR 2227). *Lupinus aridorum* (scrub lupine) (E) on April 7, 1987 (52 FR 11172). *Bonamia grandiflora* (Florida bonamia) (T) on November 2, 1987 (52 FR 42068). *Liatris ohlingerae* (scrub blazing star) and *Ziziphus celata* (Florida ziziphus) (E) on July 27, 1989, (54 FR 31190). *Cladonia perforata* (Florida perforate cladonia, a lichen) (E), *Clitoria fragrans* (pigeon-wings) (T), *Crotalaria avonensis* (Avon Park harebells) (E), *Eriogonum longifolium* var. *gnaphalifolium* (scrub buckwheat) (T), *Nolina brittoniana* (scrub beargrass) (E), *Polygala lewtonii* (Lewton's polygala) (E), *Polygonella myriophylla* (sandlace) (E) on April 27, 1993 (58 FR 25746). *Conradina*

brevifolia (short-leaved rosemary) (E) on July 12, 1993 (58 FR 37432).

The nineteen species became threatened because most of their habitat was destroyed for agricultural purposes or urban development, and because some remaining habitat was degraded due to lack of appropriate prescribed fire. The recovery plan contains six basic elements: 1. Protect habitat through purchase and other means (including the Habitat Conservation Plan process for threatened animals in the Florida scrub habitat); 2. Manage protected habitats; 3. Conserve germ plasm and establish new populations of *Ziziphus celata* and (if possible) *Lupinus aridorum*; 5. Assess progress and plan post-recovery monitoring.

The 1990 edition of this recovery plan emphasized the need for land acquisition to protect these plants. At the time, the State and private organizations had already made significant acquisitions, and more have been accomplished since then (including initial land purchase for the Lake Wales Ridge National Wildlife Refuge). These land purchases, accompanied by the other elements of the recovery plan, are likely to assure the full recovery or at least the downlisting of the large majority of the nineteen plants.

Public Comments Solicited

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

Authority

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

Dated: August 4, 1995.

David J. Wesley,

Field Supervisor.

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Endangered and Threatened Species Permit Application

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of receipt of application.

The following applicant has applied for a permit to conduct certain activities with endangered species. This notice is provided pursuant to section 10(c) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531, *et seq.*).