

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.*).

PRT-805269

Applicant: Dr. Daniel A. Soluk, Illinois Natural History Survey, Champaign, Illinois.

The applicant requests a permit to take (collect, live-capture, and handle) Hine's Emerald Dragonflies (*Somatochlora hineana*) in Cook, DuPage, and Will Counties, Illinois, for biological research studies aimed at enhancement of propagation or survival of the species.

Written data or comments should be submitted to the Regional Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Endangered Species, 1 Federal Drive, Fort Snelling, Minnesota 55111-4056, and must be received within 30 days of the date of this publication.

Documents and other information submitted with Dr. Soluk's application are available for review by any party who submits a written request for a copy of such documents to the following office within 30 days of the date of publication of this notice: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Endangered Species, 1 Federal Drive, Fort Snelling, Minnesota 55111-4056. Telephone: (612/725-3536, x 250); FAX: (612/725-3526).

Dated: August 4, 1995.

John A. Blankenship,

Assistant Regional Director, Ecological Services, Region 3, Fish and Wildlife Service, Fort Snelling, Minnesota.

[FR Doc. 95-19920 Filed 8-10-95; 8:45 am]

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Minerals Management Service**Request for Comments on the Draft Proposed 5-Year Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Oil and Gas Leasing Program for 1997-2002**

SUMMARY: Comments are requested on the Draft Proposed 5-year OCS Oil and Gas Leasing Program for 1997-2002. This is the first proposal for a new program to succeed the current program that expires in July 1997.

Section 18 of the OCS Lands Act (43 USC 1344) specifies a multi-step process of consultation and analysis that must be completed before the Secretary of the Interior may approve a new 5-year program. The required steps following this notice include the development of a proposed program, a proposed final program, and Secretarial approval. Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act, the Minerals Management Service (MMS) also will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the new 5-year program.

DATES: Please submit comments and information to MMS on or before October 10, 1995.

ADDRESSES: Respondents should mail comments and information to: 5-Year Program project Director, Minerals Management Service (MS-4430), Room 1324, 381 Elden Street, Herndon, Virginia 22070. The MMS will accept hand deliveries at 1849 C Street, NW, Room 4230, Washington, DC. Envelopes or packages should be marked "Comments on the Draft proposed 5-Year OCS Oil and Gas Leasing Program for 1997-2002." When submitting any privileged or proprietary information to be treated as confidential, respondents should mark the envelope, "Contains Confidential Information."

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Carol Hartgen, 5-Year Program Project Director, or Tim Redding, Program Decision Document Project Manager, at (703) 787-1216. To order copies of the new Draft Proposed Program decision document and maps or documents describing the current 5-year program for 1992-1997, telephone (703) 787-1216.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The MMS requests comments from States, local governments, Native groups, tribes, the oil and gas industry, Federal Agencies, environmental and other interest organizations, and all other interested parties to assist in the preparation of a 5-year OCS oil and gas leasing program for 1997-2002 and applicable EIS.

Background

Management of the Nation's offshore oil and gas resources is governed by the OCS Lands Act, which specifies the conditions under which the Secretary of the Interior grants rights to explore for, develop, and produce those resources. The Secretary has assigned the responsibility for implementing the requirements of the OCS Lands Act to the MMS.

Section 18 of the Act requires the Secretary to prepare an oil and gas leasing program that indicates a 5-year schedule of lease sales that he determines will best meet the Nation's energy needs. Section 18 requires that the 5-year program be prepared in a manner consistent with four main principles: (1) Consideration of economic, social, and environmental values and the potential impact on marine, coastal, and human environments; (2) consideration of diverse environmental, geographical, and equitable regional factors; (3) a proper balance among potential for environmental damage, discovery of oil and gas, and adverse impact on the

coastal zone; and (4) assurance of receiving fair market value. There is no set equation for the weight to be accorded each principle and factor. It is within the Secretary's discretion after taking these matters into consideration to determine how best to proceed.

In addition to the requirements of section 18, the following policy objectives endorsed by the President and the Secretary have been considered in developing the Draft Proposed Program: consensus-based decisionmaking, science-based decisionmaking, and the use of natural gas as an environmentally preferred fuel.

On November 16, 1994, the MMS published a **Federal Register** Notice requesting comments on the preparation of a new 5-year program for 1997-2002. Over 2300 comments were received from affected State and local governments, Alaska Native organizations and communities, federal agencies, environmental and other interest organizations, the oil and gas industry, and the general public. Those comments have been considered in developing the Draft Proposed Program.

Moving From Conflict to Consensus

Preparation of the 5-year Draft proposed Program for 1997-2002 recognizes the need not only to incorporate and consider analyses that were updated from the 1992-1997 program but also to engage in dialogue with the parties that would be most affected by the program. In its 1993 report, *Moving beyond Conflict to Consensus*, the Subcommittee on OCS Legislation of the OCS Policy Committee, an independent body that advises the Secretary of the Interior, recommended that the Secretary, where local constituents were willing, use regional task forces representing OCS program stakeholders to focus on reaching consensus on OCS lease sales. The OCS Policy Committee also recognized that "overall, the prevailing controversies and the measures used to deal with them have seriously diminished the effectiveness of the federal OCS oil and gas program in helping to meet the Nation's energy needs." This program embraces the advice provided by the OCS Policy Committee and reflects the beginning of a long-term movement from conflict to consensus in the OCS program.

The OCS Policy Committee established an Alaska Regional Stakeholders Task Force consisting of diverse Alaskan constituencies which was a first attempt to reach consensus on recommending to the Secretary the appropriate planning areas to be