

(3) Additional information concerning the range, distribution, and population size of the species; and

(4) Current or planned activities which may adversely affect known populations of Preble's.

Legal notices and news releases announcing the date, time, and location of the hearings are being published in newspapers concurrently with this **Federal Register** notice.

The previous comment period on this proposal is scheduled to close on May 27, 1997. To accommodate these hearings, the Service extends the comment period. Written comments may now be submitted until July 28, 1997, to the Service office identified in the **ADDRESSES** section above. All comments must be received before the close of the comment period to be considered.

Author: The author of this notice is Peter Plage, Colorado Field Office (see **ADDRESSES** above), telephone 303/275-2370.

Authority: Authority for this action is the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

Dated: April 28, 1997.

Terry T. Terrell,

Deputy Regional Director, Denver, Colorado.

[FR Doc. 97-11567 Filed 5-2-97; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

50 CFR Part 17

RIN 1018-AD35

Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Reopening of Public Comment Period on the Proposed Rule to List the Pallid Manzanita as Threatened

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Proposed rule; reopening of the comment period.

SUMMARY: The Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), pursuant to the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act), provides notice of reopening of the comment period on the proposed threatened status for *Arctostaphylos pallida* (pallid manzanita) which was published in the **Federal Register** on August 2, 1995. The comment period has been reopened to acquire additional information from interested parties, and to resume the proposed listing actions.

DATES: The public comment period closes June 4, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Written comments and materials concerning this proposal should be sent directly to the Field Supervisor, Sacramento Field Office, 3310 El Camino Avenue, Suite 130, Sacramento, California 95821-6340. Comments and materials received will be available for inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the above address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dwight Harvey (see **ADDRESSES** section) at (916) 979-2725.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

On August 2, 1995, the Service published a rule proposing threatened status for *Arctostaphylos pallida* (60 FR 39309-39314). The original comment period closed on September 25, 1995. No public hearing was requested. The Service was unable to make a final listing determination on this species because of a limited budget, other endangered species assignments driven by court orders, and higher listing priorities. In addition, a moratorium on listing actions (Public Law 104-6), which took effect on April 10, 1995, stipulated that no funds could be used to make final listing determinations or critical habitat determinations.

After funding was restored, the Service proceeded with a final determination for this species by reopening the comment period from February 25, 1997 until March 27, 1997 (62 FR 8417, February 25, 1997). During this period, the Service received a

request that the comment period be reopened an additional 30 days in order that all interested and affected parties have sufficient opportunity to submit their comments in writing.

Pallid manzanita is found only in the northern Diablo Range of California. It occupies 13 sites in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties. The two largest populations are located at Huckleberry Ridge and Sobrante Ridge. The plants are found in manzanita chaparral habitat that is frequently surrounded by oak woodlands and coastal scrub. The plants are threatened by shading and competition from native and non-native plants, fire suppression, habitat fragmentation, hybridization, disease, herbicide spraying, and unauthorized tree cutting.

The Service particularly seeks information concerning:

(1) The known or potential effects of fire suppression and general fire management practices on the pallid manzanita and its habitat.

In addition, the Service seeks information that has become available in the last two years concerning:

(2) Other biological, commercial, or other relevant data on any threats (or lack of thereof) to the species; and

(3) The size, number, or distribution of populations of the species.

Written comments may be submitted through June 4, 1997 to the Service office in the **ADDRESSES** section.

Any comments received by the closing date will be considered in the final decision on this proposal.

Author: The primary author of this notice is Dwight Harvey (see **ADDRESSES** section).

Authority

The authority for this action is the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

Dated: April 28, 1997.

Thomas J. Dwyer,

Acting Regional Director, Portland, OR.

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