

62739. It redelegates authority presently delegated to the Office of Housing Directors in Category AA (double A) Offices to the Directors of the Single Family Housing Division and the Multifamily Housing Division in those offices when the position of Housing Director is vacant in those offices.

EFFECTIVE DATE: August 12, 1997.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Robert G. Hunt, Director, Management Services Division, or Charles E. Patterson, Chief, Program Analysis Branch, Management Services Division, Department of Housing and Urban Development, 451 Seventh Street SW, Room 9116, Washington, DC 20410, (202) 708-0820. Persons with hearing or speech impairments may call HUD's TTY number (202) 708-1455, or the Federal Information Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. (With the exception of the "800" number, these telephone numbers are not toll-free.)

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In November of 1993, the Secretary announced the reorganization of HUD's field structure to improve performance and provide HUD's customers—members of the public and program beneficiaries—more efficient service and less bureaucracy by empowering HUD's employees to more effectively serve these customers. As part of the ongoing process, on December 6, 1994, at 59 FR 62739, the Department published a Notice of Revocation and Redefinition of Authority pertaining to authority in the field over Office of Housing programs, which was amended by the Revocation and Redefinition of Authority published on June 26, 1996 at 61 FR 33130 and was further amended by the Redefinition of Authority published on February 3, 1997 at 62 FR 5029.

HUD continues to streamline its Housing operations by consolidating functions. It is essential that the line of authority to the field officials operating Housing programs and functions be maintained. Therefore the authority held by the Director of Housing in Category AA offices is being redelegated to the Directors of the Single Family Housing Division and the Multifamily Housing Division, when the position of Director of Housing is vacant.

Accordingly, the Assistant Secretary for Housing—Federal Housing Commissioner redelegates authority as follows:

Section A. Authority Redelegated

This amendment redelegates authority previously delegated to Office of Housing Directors in Category AA (Double A) offices to the Director of the

Single Family Housing Division and the Director of the Multifamily Housing Division, when the position of the Office of Housing Director is vacant.

Authority: Sec. 7(d) of the Department of Housing and Urban Development Act (42 U.S.C. 3535(d)).

Dated: August 12, 1997.

Nicolas P. Retsinas,

Assistant Secretary for Housing—Federal Housing Commissioner.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Notice of Availability of a Draft Recovery Plan for Point Arena Mountain Beaver (California) for Review and Comment

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of document availability and public comment period.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announces the availability for public review of a draft recovery plan for the Point Arena mountain beaver (*Aplodontia rufa nigra* (Rafinesque)) listed as an endangered species on December 12, 1991 (50 FR 64716). The Point Arena mountain beaver occurs western Mendocino County, California. The Service solicits review and comment from the public on this draft plan.

DATES: Comments on the draft recovery plan received by October 20, 1997, will be considered by the Service.

ADDRESSES: Persons wishing to review the draft recovery plan may obtain a copy by contacting the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 3310 El Camino Avenue, Suite 130, Sacramento, California 95821. Written comments and material regarding the plan should be addressed to the Field Supervisor at the above address. Comments and materials received are available on request for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the above address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Please contact Karen Miller, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, at 916/979-2725 (see **ADDRESSES**).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Restoring an endangered or threatened plant or animal to the point where it is again a secure, self-sustaining member of its ecosystem is a

primary goal of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife 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 the site specific management actions considered necessary for conservation and survival of the species, establish objectives, and measurable 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 the public notice and an opportunity for public review and comment be provided during recovery plan development. The Service, and other affected Federal agencies will take these comments into account in the course of implementing approved recovery plans.

The Point Arena mountain beaver is endemic to western Mendocino County, where 24 separate occurrences are known. Management issues and concerns include elimination or degradation of habitat from land development, grazing, timber harvest and invasion by alien plant species. Direct threats to the species may include predation by household pets and feral animals, poisoning, genetic isolation and drift, and possible sensitivity to disturbance.

The Point Arena mountain beaver draft recovery plan was developed by selected experts on the biology of the species and has been reviewed by the appropriate Service staff in Region 1. The plan will be made final and approved following incorporation of comments and material received during this comment period.

Public Comments Solicited

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

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

Dated: July 15, 1997

David L. McMullen,

Acting Regional Director, Region 1, Portland, Oregon.

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