

Alamagan. Habitat loss and exotic predators, such as the brown tree snake, monitor lizard (*Varanus indicus*), rat (*Rattus* spp.), and domestic cat (*Felis catus*), continue to be the greatest threats to the survival of the nightingale reed-warbler.

The nightingale reed-warbler is currently represented by populations on three islands with a total number of individuals estimated to be 6,225–6,230 birds. The objective of this plan is to provide a framework for the recovery of this species so that protection by the Endangered Species Act (ESA) is no longer necessary. Recommended recovery actions emphasize protection of the existing populations from introduction of the brown tree snake and from existing threats, such as other predators, feral ungulates, and habitat alteration. It is recommended that populations be established on at least three additional islands in the Mariana Island chain. Further research on population dynamics is also needed.

Public Comments Solicited

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

Authority

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

Dated: September 24, 1997.

Michael J. Spear,

Regional Director, Region 1, Portland, Oregon.
[FR Doc. 97–25839 Filed 9–29–97; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Availability of Draft Recovery Plan for the Endangered Speckled Dace of Clover and Independence Valleys (*Rhinichthys osculus lethoporus* and *Rhinichthys osculus oligoporus*) for Review and Comment

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of document availability.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) announces the availability for public review of a draft recovery plan for the endangered speckled dace of Clover and Independence Valleys in Elko County, Nevada. This plan undertakes a multispecies approach by discussing the

recovery needs of two native, endangered fish species.

DATES: Comments on the draft recovery plan received by December 29, 1997 will be considered by the Service.

ADDRESSES: Persons wishing to review the draft recovery plan may obtain a copy by contacting the State Supervisor, Nevada State Office, Fish and Wildlife Service, 4600 Kietzke Lane, Suite 125C, Reno, Nevada 89502 (telephone: 702/784–5227). Written comments and materials regarding the plan should be addressed to the State Supervisor at the above Reno, Nevada address. Comments and materials received are available on request for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the above Reno, Nevada address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Stephanie Byers at the above Reno, Nevada address (telephone: 702/784–5227).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Restoring endangered or threatened animals and plants to the point where they are again 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 the conservation of the species, establish criteria for the recovery levels needed to downlist or delist them, and estimate time and cost for implementing the necessary recovery measures.

The Endangered Species Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) (Act), 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 the public comment period prior to approval of each new or revised recovery plan. The Service and other Federal agencies will also take these comments into account in the course of implementing approved recovery plans. Individualized responses to comments will not be provided.

Independence Valley speckled dace inhabit the Independence Valley Warm Springs system in Elko County, Nevada, and it is the only system from which these fish are known. Clover Valley

speckled dace reside in three spring systems in Clover Valley in Elko County, Nevada. These springs are Clover Valley Warm Springs, Bradish Spring, and Wright Ranch Spring. Current population distributions and abundances are unknown for either dace. Primary threats to each species at the time of listing were a limited distribution, habitat manipulation, small population size, and nonnative fish introductions. Recovery of these species will require removal and/or control of nonnative fishes and cooperative agreements with landowners to protect habitat.

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

Authority

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

Dated: September 24, 1997.

Michael J. Spear,

Regional Director, Region 1, Portland, Oregon.
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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Availability of a Draft Recovery Plan for the El Segundo Blue Butterfly for Review and Comment

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of document availability.

SUMMARY: The Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) announces the availability for public review of a draft recovery plan for the El Segundo blue butterfly (*Euphilotes battooides allyni*). The El Segundo blue butterfly occurs on local and private lands in southwestern Los Angeles County, California. The Service solicits review and comment from the public on this plan.

DATES: Comments on the draft recovery plan must be received on or before December 29, 1997 to receive consideration by the Service.

ADDRESSES: Persons wishing to review the draft recovery plan may obtain a copy by contacting the Field Supervisor at the following address: Carlsbad Field Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 2730 Loker Avenue West, Carlsbad, California 92008. Telephone requests may be made by calling 760/431–9440. Comments and material received are available for public inspection by