

Dated: September 24, 1997.

Michael J. Spear,

Regional Director.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Availability of Draft Recovery Plan for the Morro Shoulderband Snail and Four Plants From Western San Luis Obispo County, California 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 the draft Recovery Plan for the Morro Shoulderband Snail and Four Plants from Western San Luis Obispo County. The snail and the four plants occur in coastal habitats between Nipomo and San Simeon Creek in Western San Luis Obispo County, California. These taxa were listed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on December 15, 1994 (59 FR 64613).

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 Field Supervisor at the following address: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 2493 Portola Road, Suite B, Ventura, California 93003 (phone: 805/644-1766). Comments and material received are available for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the above address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Diane Steeck, Botanist, or Kim Touneh, Invertebrate Zoologist, at the above Ventura address.

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.

This recovery plan includes one snail species that is listed as endangered, three plant taxa that are listed as endangered and one plant taxon that is listed as threatened. All are endemic to western San Luis Obispo County, California. The currently known range of the Morro shoulderband snail (*Helminthoglypta walkeriana*) includes the Morro Spit and those areas south of Morro Bay, west of Los Osos Creek and north of Hazard Canyon that still support coastal dune and sage scrub habitats. Morro manzanita (*Arctostaphylos morroensis*) is restricted to Baywood fine sands to the south of Morro Bay in stands of varying size scattered over approximately 890 acres. Five of the six known occurrences of Indian Knob mountainbalm (*Eriodictyon altissimum*) also occur south of Morro Bay, typically at the margins of chaparral and coastal sage scrub communities; the sixth occurrence, for which the species was named, is located about 15 miles to the south, at Indian Knob. Inland, Chorro Creek bog thistle (*Cirsium fontinale* var. *obispense*) is known from nine locations between San Simeon and Pismo Beach, where it is restricted to serpentine seeps and springs. Pismo clarkia (*Clarkia speciosa* ssp. *immaculata*) is known from about a dozen locations in the area between Pismo Beach and Nipomo Mesa, where it is restricted to grasslands.

The Morro shoulderband snail is threatened principally by habitat destruction and degradation due to increasing development, invasion of non-native plant species (i.e. veldt grass), senescence of dune vegetation, and recreational use (e.g. off-road vehicle activity). Competition with the brown garden snail (*Helix aspersa*), molluscicides, and increased likelihood of extinction due to the small size and

isolation of populations are potential threats. Morro manzanita and Indian Knob mountainbalm are threatened with habitat destruction and degradation due to development, and possibly by invasion of non-native plant species, and senescence resulting from alteration in fire cycles. Threats to the Chorro Creek bog thistle include water diversion, road maintenance, excessive cattle trampling and, potentially, invasive non-native plants. The principal threat to the Pismo clarkia is habitat destruction and degradation due to development. Road maintenance activities, overgrazing, and competition with non-native grasses may also be threats.

This plan provides for the recovery of the snail, Morro manzanita, and Indian knob mountainbalm so that protection by the Act is no longer necessary. It provides for downlisting Chorro Creek bog thistle and Pismo clarkia to threatened status.

Protection and management of the species' habitat are the primary goals of the recovery effort.

Public Comments Solicited

The Service solicits written comments on the recovery plan. All comments recovery 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 Draft Recovery Plan for the Seven Coastal Plants and the Myrtle's Silverspot Butterfly

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of document availability.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announces the availability for public review of a draft Recovery Plan for Seven Coastal Plants and the Myrtle's Silverspot Butterfly. The seven plants and the butterfly occur in coastal habitats from Humboldt County to Santa Barbara County.