

Dated: October 8, 1998.

W. Michael McCabe,

Regional Administrator, Region III.

[FR Doc. 98-28113 Filed 10-20-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-P

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

40 CFR Part 271

[FRL-6176-6]

Idaho: Final Authorization of State Hazardous Waste Management Program Revisions

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: The EPA proposes to grant final authorization to the hazardous waste program revisions submitted by the State of Idaho. In the final rules section of this **Federal Register**, EPA is authorizing the State's program revisions as an immediate final rule because EPA views this action as noncontroversial and anticipates no adverse comments. A detailed rationale for the authorization is set forth in the immediate final rule. If no adverse written comment is received on this action, the immediate final rule will become effective and no further activity will occur in relation to this proposal. If EPA receives adverse written comment, EPA will withdraw the immediate final rule before its effective date by publishing a withdrawal in the **Federal Register**. EPA will then respond to public comments in a later final rule based on this proposal. EPA may not provide further opportunity for comment. Any parties interested in commenting on this action should do so at this time.

DATES: Written comments must be received on or before November 20, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Mail written comments to Jeff Hunt, U.S. EPA, Region 10, 1200 Sixth Avenue, Mail stop WCM-122, Seattle, WA 98101, phone, (206) 553-0256. Copies of the materials submitted by Idaho are available during normal business hours at the following locations: EPA Region 10 Library, 1200 Sixth Avenue, Seattle, WA, 98101, phone (206) 553-1289 and the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare, Division of Environmental Quality, Planning and Evaluation Division, 1410 N. Hilton, Boise, Idaho 83706, phone, (208) 373-0502 (Refer to Docket numbers: 0105-9401, 0105-9502, 0105-9601; contact is Pam Smolczynski).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jeff Hunt, U.S. EPA, Region 10, 1200 Sixth Avenue, Mail Stop WCM-122, Seattle, WA, 98101, phone (206) 553-0256.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: For additional information see the immediate final rule published in the rules section of this **Federal Register**.

Dated: October 6, 1998.

Chuck Clarke,

Regional Administrator, Region 10.

[FR Doc. 98-27703 Filed 10-20-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

50 CFR Part 17

RIN 1018-AF00

Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Proposed Rule To Delist the Dismal Swamp Southeastern Shrew (*Sorex longirostris fisheri*)

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) proposes to remove the Dismal Swamp southeastern shrew (*Sorex longirostris fisheri* Merriam) from the List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife. The Dismal Swamp southeastern shrew was listed as a threatened species in 1986 under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act). New data indicate that this species is more widely distributed than previously believed, is fairly abundant within its range, occurs in a wide variety of habitats, and is genetically secure. The Service concludes that the data supporting the original classification were incomplete and that the new data indicate removing the Dismal Swamp southeastern shrew from the List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife is warranted.

DATES: Comments from all interested parties must be received by December 21, 1998. Public hearing requests must be received by December 7, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Comments and materials concerning this proposal should be sent to the Virginia Field Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, P.O. Box 99, 6669 Short Lane, Gloucester, Virginia 23061. The complete file for this rule is available for inspection by appointment, during normal business hours at the above address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Cynthia A. Schulz, Fish and Wildlife

Biologist, at the above address (telephone 804/693-6694, extension 127; facsimile 804/693-9032).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The Dismal Swamp southeastern shrew is a small, long-tailed shrew with a brown back, slightly paler underparts, buffy feet, and a relatively short, broad nose (Handley 1979a). It weighs 3 to 5 grams and measures up to 10 centimeters in length. The species was first described as *Sorex fisheri* by C.H. Merriam (Merriam 1895). Merriam's description was based on four specimens trapped near Lake Drummond, Virginia by A.K. Fisher of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Bureau of Biological Surveys. Rhoads and Young (1897) captured a specimen in Chapanoke, Perquimans County, North Carolina, that seemed intermediate between *S. fisheri* and the southeastern shrew (*Sorex longirostris* Bachman) (Handley 1979b). Jackson (1928) subsequently reduced *S. fisheri* to a subspecies of *S. longirostris*. Three subspecies of southeastern shrew are now recognized—*Sorex longirostris eionis*, which occurs in the northern two-thirds of peninsular Florida (Jones *et al.* 1991); *S. l. fisheri*, which occurs in southeastern Virginia and eastern North Carolina; and *S. l. longirostris*, which occurs in the rest of the range that extends through eastern Louisiana, eastern Oklahoma, and Missouri, then eastward through central Illinois and Indiana, southern Ohio, and Maryland. Jones *et al.* (1991) examined the taxonomic status of these three subspecies and verified substantial size differences among them. The authors found that *S. l. eionis* was significantly larger in four cranial measurements when compared with the other two subspecies; *S. l. fisheri* was significantly large in one cranial and one external measurement; and *S. l. longirostris* had a relatively short palate and rostrum, narrow skull, and short foot and tail. This study confirmed the subspecific status of *S. l. fisheri*.

Apart from a litter of five young found in a nest in the Dismal Swamp in 1905, little is known about reproduction or other life history features of *Sorex longirostris fisheri* (Handley 1979b). However, more is known about the life history of other *Sorex* species, and this information may apply to *S. l. fisheri*. *Sorex longirostris* reproduces from March through October, and it is likely that two litters are born each year, with one to six young produced per litter (Webster *et al.* 1985). Nests are shallow depressions lined with dried leaves and