

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**Fish and Wildlife Service****Availability of the Morro Bay Kangaroo Rat (*Dipodomys heermanni morroensis*) Draft Revised Recovery Plan**

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of document availability.

SUMMARY: The Fish and Wildlife Service announces the availability of the Morro Bay kangaroo rat (*Dipodomys heermanni morroensis*) draft revised recovery plan for public review. This kangaroo rat is believed to exist at one site in San Luis Obispo County, California.

DATES: Comments on the draft revised recovery plan received by March 27, 2000 will be considered by the Fish and Wildlife Service.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the draft revised recovery plan are available for inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the following location: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 2493 Portola Road, Suite B, Ventura, California 93003 (phone: 805/644-1766). The draft revised recovery plan will also be available at the San Luis Obispo County Public Library. Requests for copies of the draft revised recovery plan and written comments and materials regarding this plan should be addressed to the Field Supervisor, at the above Ventura address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Catherine Mc Calvin, 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 downlisting or delisting them, and estimate time and cost for implementing 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 considers all information presented during the public comment period prior to approval of each new or revised recovery plan. Substantive technical comments will result in changes to the plans. Substantive comments regarding recovery plan implementation may not necessarily result in changes to the recovery plans, but will be forwarded to appropriate Federal or other entities so that they can take these comments into account during the course of implementing recovery actions. Individualized responses to comments will not be provided.

The Morro Bay kangaroo rat is listed as endangered (35 FR 16047). This species is restricted to less than 200 acres. It is currently known from one site. The Morro Bay kangaroo rat is threatened by habitat loss from development. In addition, the very low numbers of individuals and populations of this species puts it at great risk of extinction due to random naturally-occurring (stochastic) events.

The objective of this revised plan is to provide a framework for the recovery of the Morro Bay kangaroo rat so that protection by the Endangered Species Act is no longer necessary. Actions necessary to accomplish this objective include protecting species habitat through acquisition, conservation easements, and Habitat Conservation Plans; managing species habitat; conducting management-oriented research on the ecology and biology of the species; reviewing and revising management and recovery guidelines; locating additional populations; and establishing new populations within the historic range of the species.

Public Comments Solicited

The Service solicits written comments on this draft revised recovery plan. 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: January 19, 2000.

Elizabeth H. Stevens,

Acting, California/Nevada Operations Manager, Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 1, Sacramento, California.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**Fish and Wildlife Service****Marine Mammal Species Permit Applications; Notice of Extension of Comment Period**

The Fish and Wildlife Service gives notice that the comment period is extended on the notice of receipt of applications for two applications submitted by International Animal Consulting Group, Inc. The applications were submitted to satisfy requirements of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, *as amended* (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*) and the regulations governing marine mammals (50 CFR 18). The applications, 018196 and 018197, are for conducting certain activities with marine mammals, specifically taking northern sea otters (*Enhydra lutris lutris*) from the wild in Alaska for export and public display at two Japanese aquariums. The extension will allow all interested parties to submit written comments. The Fish and Wildlife Service published a notice of receipt of the applications on Friday, December 17, 1999. The current comment period closes on January 26, 2000. Written comments may now be submitted until January 31, 2000, and should be submitted to the Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Management Authority, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Room 700, Arlington, Virginia 22203.

Dated: January 21, 2000.

Kristen Nelson,

Chief, Branch of Permits (Domestic), Office of Management Authority.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**Bureau of Land Management**

[WO-320-1330-PB-24 1A]

Extension of Currently Approved Information Collection; OMB Approval Number 1004-0121

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) announces its intention to request an extension of approval for the collection of information from applicants to lease and develop solid minerals other than coal and oil shale. The BLM uses the information supplied to determine