

*D. Description of Projected Reporting, Recordkeeping, and Other Compliance Requirements*

27. There currently are no recordkeeping or other compliance requirements associated with the subject rule. The *NPRM* proposes no new recordkeeping or other compliance requirements.

*E. Steps Taken to Minimize Significant Impact on Small Entities, and Significant Alternatives Considered*

28. The RFA requires an agency to describe any significant alternatives that it has considered in reaching its proposed approach, which may include the following four alternatives: (1) The establishment of differing compliance or reporting requirements or timetables that take into account the resources available to small entities; (2) the clarification, consolidation, or simplification of compliance or reporting requirements under the rule for small entities; (3) the use of performance, rather than design, standards; and (4) an exemption from coverage of the rule, or any part thereof, for small entities.

29. As indicated above, the *NPRM* proposes to eliminate the subject rule and to allow licensees to have more than a single experimental broadcast license irrespective of their reason for seeking such multiple licenses. Significant alternatives were recently considered in the Commission's 1998 biennial review of its broadcast ownership rules (MM Docket No. 98-35). Those alternatives were: (1) Retention of the current rule; (2) modification of the current rule; (3) elimination of the current rule. In that proceeding the Commission determined that elimination of the subject provision would be in the public interest. The Commission considered the results of this top-to-bottom review of the subject rule in its consideration of alternatives to the course proposed herein in the instant proceeding. Under the proposal in this *NPRM*, small entities will be able to obtain multiple experimental broadcast station licenses, as will all broadcast licensees.

*F. Federal Rules That May Duplicate, Overlap, or Conflict With the Proposed Rules*

30. None.

31. *Initial Paperwork Reduction Act Analysis.* This *NPRM* may contain either proposed or modified information collections. As part of our continuing effort to reduce paperwork burdens, we invite the general public to take this opportunity to comment on the

information collections contained in this *NPRM*, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1996. Public and agency comments are due at the same time as other comments on the *NPRM*. Comments should address: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Commission, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information collected; and (c) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on the respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology. In addition to filing comments with the Secretary, a copy of any comments on the information collections contained herein should be submitted to Judy Boley, Federal Communications Commission, 445 Twelfth Street, SW., Room C-1804, Washington, DC 20554, or via the Internet to [jboley@fcc.gov](mailto:jboley@fcc.gov) and to Edward C. Springer, OMB Desk Officer, 10236 NEOB, 725 17th Street, NW., Washington, DC 20503 or via the Internet to [Edward.Springer@omb.eop.gov](mailto:Edward.Springer@omb.eop.gov).

32. *Additional Information.* For additional information on this proceeding, please contact Roger Holberg, Policy and Rules Division, Mass Media Bureau, (202) 418-2134, (202) 418-1169 TTY.

**IV. Ordering Clauses**

33. Accordingly, pursuant to the authority contained in sections 1, 2(a), 4(i), 303, 307, 309, and 310 of the Communications Act, as amended, 47 U.S.C. 151, 152(a), 154(i), 303, 307, 309, and 310, and Section 202(h) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, this *NPRM* is adopted.

34. The Commission's Consumer Information Bureau, Reference Information Center, shall send a copy of this *NPRM*, including the Initial Regulatory Flexibility Analysis, to the Chief Counsel for Advocacy of the Small Business Administration in accordance with the Regulatory Flexibility Act.

**List of Subjects in 47 CFR Part 74**

Radio broadcasting, Television broadcasting.

Federal Communications Commission.

**Magalie Roman Salas,**

*Secretary.*

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**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

**Fish and Wildlife Service**

**50 CFR Part 17**

**RIN 1018-AF92; RIN 1018-AF95**

**Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Extension of Comment Periods on Proposed Critical Habitat for the Spectacled Eider and Steller's Eider**

**AGENCY:** Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Proposed rule; notice of extension of comment period.

**SUMMARY:** We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), provide notice that we are extending the comment periods on the proposed rules designating critical habitat for the spectacled eider (*Somateria fischeri*) and the Alaska-breeding population of the Steller's eider (*Polysticta stelleri*). We are extending these comment periods to allow the public the opportunity to comment simultaneously on the proposed rules and the associated economic analyses, which we anticipate will be available for public review in August 2000. All interested parties are invited to submit comments on these proposed rules.

**DATES:** The comment periods for the proposed rules concerning spectacled eiders and Steller's eiders, which previously closed on June 30, 2000, now close on August 31, 2000.

**ADDRESSES:** Submit written data or comments on the spectacled eider to the Field Supervisor, Ecological Services Field Office, Anchorage, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 605 W. 4th Ave. Rm G-62, Anchorage, AK 99501; fax: 907/271-2786. Submit written data or comments on the Steller's eider to Ted Swem, Northern Alaska Ecological Services, 101 12th Ave., Rm 110, Fairbanks, AK 99701.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For the proposed rule concerning spectacled eiders, contact Ann G. Rappoport, Field Supervisor, Ecological Services Field Office, Anchorage (see **ADDRESSES** above), phone: 907/271-2787 or toll-free 800/272-4174; fax: 907/271-2786. For the proposed rule concerning Steller's eiders, contact Ted Swem, Endangered Species Branch, at Northern Alaska Ecological Services (see **ADDRESSES** above), phone: 907/456-0441; fax: 907/456-0208.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**Background**

The spectacled eider is a large seabird found in marine waters and

coastal areas from the Nushagak Peninsula of southwestern Alaska north to Barrow and east nearly to the Canadian Border. The species is threatened by habitat degradation, lead poisoning, increased predation rates, and hunting and other human disturbance. The Steller's eider is a sea duck found in coastal and marine waters from the eastern Aleutian Islands around the western and northern coasts of Alaska to the Canada border. The Alaska-breeding population of this species is thought to have decreased significantly, but the causes of the suspected decline are unknown. On February 8, 2000, the Service published a proposed rule (65 FR 6114) to designate critical habitat for the spectacled eider, and on March 13, 2000, the Service published a proposed rule (65 FR 13262) to designate critical habitat for the Alaska-breeding population of the Steller's eider.

The comment period for the proposed rule designating critical habitat for spectacled eiders originally closed on May 8, 2000. The comment period for the proposed rule designating critical habitat for Steller's eiders originally closed on May 12, 2000. We subsequently extended the comment periods for both species to June 30, 2000, in response to concerns expressed by several parties that the original comment periods did not allow adequate time for review and comment by affected individuals and communities. Additionally, we anticipated that the comment periods for the economic analyses associated with the proposed critical habitat designations would be open during June 2000, and we wished to solicit comments on the proposed rules and their respective economic analyses simultaneously. The development of the economic analyses for the proposed critical habitat designations was unexpectedly delayed, and we now anticipate that the economic analyses will be available for public review and comment during August 2000. Accordingly, to ensure simultaneous comment on proposed critical habitat and the associated economic analyses, the Service is extending the comment periods for both proposed rules until August 31, 2000. Written comments may be submitted to the appropriate Service office as specified in the **ADDRESSES** section.

Our practice is to make comments, including names and home addresses of respondents, available for public review during regular business hours. Individual respondents may request that we withhold their home address from the rulemaking record, which we will

honor to the extent allowable by law. In certain circumstances, we would withhold from the rulemaking record a respondent's identity, as allowable by law. If you wish for us to withhold your name and/or address, you must state this request prominently at the beginning of your comment. However, we will not consider anonymous comments. We will make all submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, available for public inspection in their entirety.

The deadline for requesting public hearings on the proposed rule regarding critical habitat for the spectacled eider was March 24, 2000. The deadline for requesting public hearings for the proposed rule regarding critical habitat for Steller's eider was April 27, 2000. We have not extended these deadlines. In order to be considered valid, requests for public hearings must have been submitted in writing and received at the appropriate office by the relevant deadline.

**Author:** The primary author of this notice is Susan Detwiler, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Endangered Species, 1011 E. Tudor Rd., Anchorage, AK 99503.

**Authority:** The authority for this action is the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

Dated: June 27, 2000.

**Gary Edwards,**

*Acting Regional Director, Region 7, Fish and Wildlife Service.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Fish and Wildlife Service

#### 50 CFR Part 17

RIN 1018-AG17

#### Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Proposed Determination of Critical Habitat for the Peninsular Bighorn Sheep

**AGENCY:** Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Proposed rule.

**SUMMARY:** We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), propose designation of critical habitat for the Peninsular bighorn sheep pursuant to the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act). The proposed critical habitat boundary encompasses

approximately 354,343 hectares (ha) (875,613 acres (ac)) of Peninsular bighorn sheep habitat in Riverside, San Diego, and Imperial Counties, California.

Critical habitat identifies specific areas that have physical and biological features that are essential to the conservation of a listed species, and that may require special management considerations or protection. The primary elements for the bighorn are those habitat components that are essential for the primary biological needs of feeding, sheltering, reproduction, dispersal, and genetic exchange.

If this proposed rule is made final, section 7 of the Act would prohibit destruction or adverse modification of critical habitat by any activity funded, authorized, or carried out by any Federal agency.

Section 4 of the Act requires us to consider economic and other impacts of specifying any particular area as critical habitat. We solicit data and comments from the public on all aspects of this proposal, including data on economic and other impacts of the designation. We may revise this proposal to incorporate or address new information received during the comment period.

**DATES:** Comments from all interested parties must be received by August 31, 2000. A public hearing is scheduled to be held on July 20, 2000, in Palm Springs, Riverside County, California (see **ADDRESSES** section below for details).

#### **ADDRESSES:**

**Comments:** You may submit your comments and materials concerning this proposal by any one of several methods.

1. You may mail written comments and information to the Field Supervisor, Carlsbad Fish and Wildlife Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 2730 Loker Avenue West, Carlsbad, California 92008.

2. You may hand-deliver written comments to our Carlsbad Fish and Wildlife Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 2730 Loker Avenue West, Carlsbad, California 92008.

3. You may send comments by electronic mail (e-mail) to FW1PBSH@fws.gov. Please submit comments in ASCII file format and avoid the use of special characters and encryption. Please include "Attn: [RIN number]" and your name and return address in your e-mail message. If you do not receive a confirmation from the system that we have received your e-mail message, contact us directly by calling our Carlsbad Fish and Wildlife Office at phone number 760-431-9440.