

The petition also stated that the species warranted delisting because the RCHCA provided adequate habitat conservation measures for the species through the HCP for the Stephens' kangaroo rat in western Riverside County, which was initiated following our listing of the species in 1988. Following the completion of the HCP in March 1996 (RCHCA 1996), we issued a 30-year Incidental Take Permit pursuant to section 10(a)(1)(B) of the Act to the RCHCA and other jurisdictional entities on May 2, 1996. Under the HCP, the RCHCA and other permittees agreed to offset "take" of the Stephens' kangaroo rat by funding and establishing a permanent reserve system consisting of seven core reserves for the conservation, preservation, and enhancement of the Stephens' kangaroo rat and its habitat within western Riverside County. We are also currently working with Riverside County and local jurisdictions on the development of a Western Riverside Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP). If approved, the MSHCP will provide for the conservation, management, and "take" authorization of the Stephens' kangaroo rat outside the boundaries of the existing HCP for the Stephens' kangaroo rat in western Riverside County. We are also working with San Diego County toward the development of a Multiple Species Conservation Program North County Subarea Plan that, if approved, will also provide for the conservation, management, and take authorization of the Stephens' kangaroo rat in northern San Diego County. The Multiple Habitat Conservation Program of northwestern San Diego County might also contribute toward the conservation and management of this species. Both public and private landowners have undertaken significant measures to conserve the Stephens' kangaroo rat. These conservation efforts are also an issue relevant to the listing status of the Stephens' kangaroo rat that warrants further evaluation in a status review.

Finding

We have reviewed the petition and the supporting documents, as well as other information in our files. We find that the petition and other information in our files presents substantial information that delisting the Stephens' kangaroo rat may be warranted, and are initiating a status review. We will issue a 12-month finding in accordance with section 4(b)(3)(B) of the Act as to whether or not delisting is warranted.

Five-Year Review

Section 4(c)(2)(A) of the Act requires that we conduct a review of listed species at least once every five years. We are then, under section 4(c)(2)(B) and the provisions of subsection (a) and (b), to determine, on the basis of such a review, whether or not any species should be removed from the List (delisted), or reclassified from endangered to threatened, or threatened to endangered. Our regulations at 50 CFR 424.21 require that we publish a notice in the **Federal Register** announcing those species currently under active review. This notice announces our active review of the Stephens' kangaroo rat.

Public Information Solicited

We are requesting information for both the 12-month finding and the 5-year review, as we are conducting these reviews simultaneously.

When we make a 90-day finding on a petition that substantial information exists to indicate that listing or delisting a species may be warranted, we are required to promptly commence a review of the status of the species. To ensure that the status review is complete and based on the best available scientific and commercial information, we are soliciting information on the Stephens' kangaroo rat. This includes information regarding historical and current distribution, biology and ecology, ongoing conservation measures for the species and its habitat, and threats (including wildfires) to the species and its habitat. We also request information regarding the adequacy of existing regulatory mechanisms. We request any additional information, comments, and suggestions from the public, other concerned governmental agencies, Tribes, the scientific community, industry or environmental entities, or any other interested parties concerning the status of the Stephens' kangaroo rat.

The 5-year review considers all new information available at the time of the review. This review will consider the best scientific and commercial data that have become available since the current listing determination or most recent status review, such as:

A. Species biology, including, but not limited to, population trends, distribution, abundance, demographics, and genetics;

B. Habitat conditions, including, but not limited to, amount, distribution, and suitability;

C. Conservation measures that have been implemented that benefit the species;

D. Threat status and trends;

E. Other new information, data, or corrections, including, but not limited to, taxonomic or nomenclatural changes, identification of erroneous information contained in the List, and improved analytical methods.

If you wish to comment on either the 12-month finding or the 5-year review, you may submit your comments and materials concerning this finding to the Field Supervisor, Carlsbad Fish and Wildlife Office (*see ADDRESSES* section). Our practice is to make comments, including names and home addresses of respondents, available for public review during regular business hours. Respondents may request that we withhold a respondent's identity, as allowable by law. If you wish us to withhold your name or address, you must state this request prominently at the beginning of your comment. However, we will not consider anonymous comments. To the extent consistent with applicable law, 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. Comments and materials received will be available for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the above Carlsbad address.

References Cited

A complete list of all references cited in this finding is available, upon request, from the Carlsbad Fish and Wildlife Office (*see ADDRESSES* section).

Authority

The authority for this action is section 4 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

Dated: March 24, 2004.

Marshall Jones,

Deputy Director, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force/ National Invasive Species Council Prevention Committee Meeting

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: This notice announces a meeting of the Aquatic Nuisance

Species (ANS) Task Force/National Invasive Species Council (NISC) Prevention Committee. The meeting topics are identified in the

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION section.

DATES: The Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force/National Invasive Species Council Prevention Committee will meet from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Tuesday, May 4, 2004. Minutes of the meeting will be available for public inspection during regular business hours, Monday through Friday.

ADDRESSES: The Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force/National Invasive Species Council Prevention Committee meeting will be held at the Main Interior Building, 1849 C Street, NW., Washington, DC 20240 in Room 7000B. Minutes of the meeting will be maintained in the office of Chief, Division of Environmental Quality, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Suite 322, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Arlington, Virginia 22203-1622.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Richard Orr, Prevention Committee Chair, Assistant Director for International Policy and Prevention, National Invasive Species Council, at (202) 354-1882.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Pursuant to section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. app. I), this notice announces meetings of the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force. The Task Force was established by the Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act of 1990.

Topics to be covered during the ANS Task Force/NISC Prevention Committee meeting include: review and approval of the Roles and Responsibilities draft document; identification of the Prevention Committee member's responsibilities to the five working groups; and discussion of actions required to get working groups functioning.

Dated: April 9, 2004.

Everett Wilson,

Acting Co-Chair, Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force, Assistant Director—Fisheries & Habitat Conservation.

[FR Doc. 04-9139 Filed 4-20-04; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Hanford Reach National Monument Federal Advisory Committee Meetings

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Hanford Reach National Monument Federal Planning Advisory Committee meeting.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) is announcing a two-day meeting of the Hanford Reach National Monument Federal Planning Advisory Committee (Committee). In this meeting, the Committee will continue working on making recommendations to the Service and the Department of Energy on preparation of the Comprehensive Conservation Plan and associated Environmental Impact Statement (CCP/EIS) for the Hanford Reach National Monument (Monument). The Committee is focusing on advice that identifies and reconciles land management issues while meeting the directives of Presidential Proclamation 7319 that established the Monument.

DATES: The Committee has scheduled the following meetings:

1. Wednesday, June 16, 2004, 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Richland, WA.
2. Thursday, June 17, 2004, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Richland, WA.

ADDRESSES: Both meetings will take place at the Washington State University Tri-Cities Consolidated Information Center, 2770 University Drive, Rooms 120 and 120 A, Richland, WA.

Written comments may be submitted to: Mr. Greg Hughes, Designated Federal Official for the Hanford Reach National Monument Federal Planning Advisory Committee, Hanford Reach National Monument/Saddle Mountain National Wildlife Refuge, 3250 Port of Benton Blvd., Richland, WA, 99352. Copies of the draft meeting agenda can be obtained from the Designated Federal Official. Comments may also be submitted via e-mail to hanfordreach@fws.gov or faxed to (509) 375-0196. Additional information regarding the Monument and the CCP/EIS is available on the Monument's Internet site at <http://hanfordreach.fws.gov>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For further information concerning the meetings, contact Mr. Greg Hughes, via telephone at (509) 371-1801, or fax at (509) 375-0196.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Committee meetings are open to the public. Verbal comments may be submitted during the course of the meeting. Written comments may be submitted as described under

ADDRESSES.

Dated: April 6, 2004.

David J. Wesley,

Acting Regional Director, Region 1, Portland, Oregon.

[FR Doc. 04-8989 Filed 4-20-04; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Notice of Formal Establishment of the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge, Adams County, CO

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the provisions of the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge Act of 1992 (Pub. L. 102-402, 106 Stat. 1961, hereinafter referred to as the Refuge Act), the Secretary of the Army has transferred primary administrative jurisdiction over approximately 4,929.85 acres of real property at Rocky Mountain Arsenal (RMA), Adams County, Colorado, to the Secretary of the Interior. The transfer of jurisdiction over this property occurred on April 2, 2004.

Pursuant to section 4(a) of the Refuge Act, the Secretary of the Interior hereby announces the formal establishment of the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge. The refuge will be managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) as a unit of the National Wildlife Refuge System. The refuge will be managed in accordance with the Refuge Act, and the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966, as amended (16 U.S.C. 668dd *et seq.*).

DATES: This action will be effective on April 2, 2004.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dean Rundle, Refuge Manager, Bldg. 111 RMA, Commerce City, Colorado 80022, or at telephone number (303) 289-0350.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Refuge Act mandates that following environmental remediation of RMA, under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act of 1980, and other applicable provisions of law, the Secretary of the Army will transfer jurisdiction over the real property comprising the Arsenal to the Secretary of the Interior for the formal establishment of the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge.

Environmental remediation of the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National