DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Fish and Wildlife Service

Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Recovery Plan for Phyllostegia hispida; Addendum to the Molokai Plant Cluster Recovery Plan

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of document availability.

SUMMARY: We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, announce the availability of our final recovery plan for Phyllostegia hispida (no common name) under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act). This plant species is endemic to the island of Molokai, Hawaii. This plan is an addendum to the recovery plan for the Molokai Plant Cluster, published in September of 1996. The plan includes recovery objectives and criteria, and specific recovery actions necessary to achieve downlisting and delisting of the species and its removal from the Federal List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants.


Contact Person: Kristi Young, Deputy Field Supervisor, at the above Honolulu address.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background
Recovery of endangered or threatened animals and plants is a primary goal of the Endangered Species Act (Act) (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) and our endangered species program. Recovery means improvement of the status of listed species to the point at which listing is no longer required under the criteria set out in section 4(a)(1) of the Act. Recovery plans describe actions considered necessary for the conservation of listed species, establish criteria for downlisting or delisting, and estimate time and cost for implementing the measures needed for recovery.

The Act requires the development of recovery plans for endangered or threatened species, unless such a plan would not promote the conservation of the species. Section 4(f) of the Act requires that public notice, and an opportunity for public review and comment, be provided during recovery plan development. The draft recovery plan for Phyllostegia hispida was published on June 2, 2011, and was available for public comment through August 1, 2011 (76 FR 31973). We have considered information we received from public comments and peer reviewers in our preparation of the final recovery plan, and have summarized that information in an appendix of the approved recovery plan. We welcome continuing public comment on this recovery plan, and we will consider all substantive comments on an ongoing basis to inform the implementation of recovery activities and future updates to the recovery plan.

We listed Phyllostegia hispida under the Act as an endangered species without critical habitat on March 17, 2009 (74 FR 11319). Phyllostegia hispida is found only on the island of Molokai. Currently there are less than 10 wild mature individuals, 3 wild seedlings, and approximately 7 to 10 reintroduced individuals on the island of Molokai. No known population is entirely protected from the numerous factors threatening the species’ recovery, and the species is endangered throughout its range. P. hispida is typically found in wet Metrosideros polymorpha (ohia)—dominated forest, occurring between 1,112 and 1,280 meters (3,650 and 4,200 feet) elevation.

The major threats to all known populations are habitat degradation by feral pigs (Sus scrofa); habitat degradation by and competition with invasive introduced plants; predation or herbivory by rats (Rattus spp.) and nonnative slugs; climate change; habitat degradation by landslides and flooding; and the negative demographic and genetic consequences of extremely small population size, as well as the consequent vulnerability to extinction through deterministic (chance) events. Native caterpillar species may also pose an herbivory threat to this species.

The short-term recovery objectives for Phyllostegia hispida are primarily focused on stabilizing all existing populations. To be considered stable, the species must be managed to control threats (e.g., feral ungulates and invasive plants) and be represented in an ex situ population (such as a nursery or arboresum). The long-term objectives leading to downlisting and delisting are an increase in populations and their numbers. This increase may require...
outplanting, development of appropriate management and monitoring plans at each site, and conservation agreements with landowners to ensure threats are controlled in perpetuity.

As the species meets reclassification and recovery criteria, we will review the species’ status and consider the species for reclassification or removal from the Federal List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants.

Authority: The authority for this action is section 4(f) of the Endangered Species Act, 16 U.S.C. 1533 (f).

Dated: July 30, 2013.

Richard R. Hannan,
Acting Regional Director, Pacific Region, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service


Sport Fishing and Boating Partnership Council; Teleconference

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of teleconference.

SUMMARY: We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), announce a public teleconference of the Sport Fishing and Boating Partnership Council (Council).

DATES: Teleconference: Friday, September 13, 2013, 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. (Eastern daylight time). For deadlines and directions on registering to listen to the teleconference, submitting written material, and giving an oral presentation, please see “Public Input” under SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Douglas Hobbs, Council Coordinator, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Mailstop 3103–AEA, Arlington, VA 22203; telephone (703) 358–2336; fax (703) 358–2548; or email doug_hobbs@fws.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In accordance with the requirements of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App., we announce that Sport Fishing and Boating Partnership Council will hold a teleconference.

Background

The Council was formed in January 1993 to advise the Secretary of the Interior, through the Director of the Service, on nationally significant recreational fishing, boating, and aquatic resource conservation issues. The Council represents the interests of the public and private sectors of the sport fishing, boating, and conservation communities and is organized to enhance partnerships among industry, constituency groups, and government. The 18-member Council, appointed by the Secretary of the Interior, includes the Service Director and the president of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, who both serve in ex officio capacities. Other Council members are directors from State agencies responsible for managing recreational fish and wildlife resources and individuals who represent the interests of saltwater and freshwater recreational fishing, recreational boating, the recreational fishing and boating industries, recreational fisheries resource conservation, Native American tribes, aquatic resource outreach and education, and tourism. Background information on the Council is available at http://www.fws.gov/sfbpc.

Meeting Agenda

The Council will hold a teleconference to:

• Consider and approve a response to a request for comments on recommendation number 17, Hunting, Fishing and Outdoor Recreation strategy, of the National Wildlife Refuge System Vision, and
• Consider other Council business, including planning for the October 2013 meeting.

The final agenda will be posted on the Internet at http://www.fws.gov/sfbpc.

Public Input

If you wish to

You must contact the Council Coordinator (see FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT) no later than

| Listen to the teleconference .......................................................... | Monday, September 9, 2013. |
| Submit written information or questions before the teleconference for the council to consider during the teleconference. | Monday, September 9, 2013. |
| Give an oral presentation during the teleconference ................................ | Monday, September 9, 2013. |

Submitting Written Information or Questions

Interested members of the public may submit relevant information or questions for the Council to consider during the teleconference. Written statements must be received by the date listed in “Public Input” under SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION, so that the information may be made available to the Council for their consideration prior to this teleconference. Written statements must be supplied to the Council Coordinator in one of the following formats: One hard copy with original signature, and one electronic copy via email (acceptable file formats are Adobe Acrobat PDF, MS Word, MS PowerPoint, or rich text file).

Giving an Oral Presentation

Individuals or groups requesting to make an oral presentation during the teleconference will be limited to 2 minutes per speaker, with no more than a total of 15 minutes for all speakers. Interested parties should contact the Council Coordinator, in writing (preferably via email; see FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT), to be placed on the public speaker list for this teleconference. To ensure an opportunity to speak during the public comment period of the teleconference, members of the public must register with the Council Coordinator. Registered speakers who wish to expand upon their oral statements, or those who had wished to speak but could not be accommodated on the agenda, may submit written statements to the Council Coordinator up to 30 days subsequent to the teleconference.

Meeting Minutes

Summary minutes of the teleconference will be maintained by the Council Coordinator (see FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT) and will be available for public inspection within 90 days of the meeting and will be posted on the Council’s Web site at http://www.fws.gov/sfbpc.

Stephen Guertin,
Director.

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